

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of  
The North & South West Durham Learning Federation 2022-23**



The Governing Body of The North & South West Durham Learning Federation has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Executive Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

**Governance arrangements**

The full Governing Body meets once each term and also have a number of committees which also meet termly to consider different aspects of the school in detail. The North & South West Durham Learning Federation has a Personnel Committee, a School Committee, a Community Committee, a Finance Committee and a Children's Committee. We also have a Pay Review Committee which meets annually and committees which could meet if necessary, to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters. Full Governing Body meetings and all committee meetings have pre-arranged agendas which ensure that all of the terms of reference of the Governing Body are met. Governor committee meetings are all minuted and a Governor reference file is kept in each school.

Over the last year, all Governors' meetings have been hybrid with governors attending in person or via Teams. Governors have continued to carry out their duties throughout the year, with the exception of Safeguarding, however, Governors' usual link visits have been put on hold as it was felt that pressure on staff was already unduly high due to the challenges of blended learning.

A list of Governing Body members 2022-2023 and their responsibilities is attached. Governors have a wide spread of knowledge and expertise and are part of committees which utilise their skills. There are 7 Co-opted Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor, 1 Staff Governor, 1 Executive

	<p>Headteacher Governor, 3 Parent Governors and 4 Associate Governors.</p> <p>Attendance at meetings is excellent for both Full Governing Body meetings and committee meetings and we have never had to cancel a meeting because not enough Governors were in attendance.</p>
<p><b>Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body</b></p>	<p>The Governing Body of The North &amp; South West Durham Learning Federation has fulfilled its statutory duties in terms of monitoring all areas of the schools' work and offering support and challenge through the agreed agendas of each committee and the agendas of full Governing Body meetings. The following areas have been of particular note this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreeing and monitoring the use of Pupil Premium funding, PE and Sports Premium funding and Covid Catch-up funding (this is available on the relevant schools' websites) and evaluating the impact.</li> <li>• Reviewing statutory policies and ensuring that the schools' websites contain all necessary information for parents.</li> <li>• Recruitment of new staff needed in all three schools ensuring safer recruitment procedures are followed.</li> <li>• Monitoring the impact of key initiatives that have been implemented in each school including the Rights Respecting School Award.</li> <li>• Monitoring of each school's curriculum offer.</li> <li>• Monitoring of pupil progress across all three schools including the impact of interventions.</li> <li>• Ensuring safeguarding policies and procedures are in place, are being applied rigorously and that training is effective and complete and complies with the law.</li> <li>• Recruitment, including several leadership posts: a new Executive Head Teacher (to start January 2024), a new Federation Business Manager, and a new Deputy Head for The Oaks.</li> <li>• Evergreen and The Oaks have both had Ofsted visits</li> </ul>
<p><b>Assessment of Impact</b></p>	<p>Governors provide a high level of challenge to the Executive Head Teacher and the schools. They consider a range of documents and data provided by the schools in order to judge the impact of strategies within both schools. The schools' Education Development Partner provides notes of visit which are considered at Governing Body meetings.</p> <p>Governors monitor finance stringently to ensure that the schools' budgets are spent to achieve the best possible outcomes for learners.</p>
<p><b>Contact Details</b></p>	<p>The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr. Clive Hubery c/o any of the school offices.</p>

	Details of The North and South West Durham Learning Federation's Governing Body are on The North and South West Durham Learning Federation website.
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**Members of The North & South West Durham Learning Federation Governing Body 2022-23**

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|------------------|------------------------|---|
| Mr. C Hubery BEM | Co-opted Governor      | Chair of Governors<br>Chair of Children's Committee<br>Chair of Community Committee<br>Member of Finance Committee<br>Member of Personnel Committee<br>Member of School Committee<br>Member of Appeals Committee<br>HT's performance management |
| Mrs. M Smith     | Co-opted Governor      | Vice Chair of Governors<br>Chair of Finance Committee<br>Chair of Personnel Committee<br>Member of First/Pay Review Committee<br>HT's performance management  |
| Mrs. L Kipling   | Co-opted Governor      | Member of First/Pay Review Committee  |
| Mrs. F Wood OBE  | Co-opted Governor      | Member of Personnel Committee<br>Member of School Committee<br>Member of Appeals Committee<br>Member of Community Committee   |
| Mrs. A English   | Executive Head Teacher | Member of all committees  |
| Ms J Benson      | Associate Governor     | Member of all committees  |
| Mr. P Bodo       | Parent Governor        | Member of School Committee<br>Member of Appeals Committee   |
| Mrs. M Farrow    | Co-opted Governor      | Member of Children's Committee<br>Chair of School Committee   |
| Mr. L Davis      | Associate Governor     | Member of all committees  |
| Mr. G McCallum   | Parent Governor        | Member of First/Pay Review Committee<br>Member of Finance Committee   |
| Mrs. J Nicholson | LA Governor            | Member of Personnel Committee<br>Member of Community Committee<br>Member of First/Pay Review Committee<br>Member of Finance Committee   |

Mr. M Tweddle	Associate Governor Member of all committees
Mr. G Thompson	Staff Governor      Member of Children's Committee
Mrs. R Farrow	Co-opted Governor Not a member of any Committees
Mrs. G Stringer	Co-opted Governor Member of School Committee Member of Personnel Committee
Mr. L Brannigan	Co-opted Governor Member of School Committee
Mrs. T Skerrett	Associate Governor without voting rights or committees