

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Five Stones Learning Federation which incorporates Evenwood C of E Primary School and St Michael's C of E Primary School Bishop Middleham for the year ending August 2022

Vision

"Life in all its fullness"

Our vision guides us in all that we hope to be, enabling every part of our community to grow and develop. This means growing in body, mind and spirit in order to flourish and experience the joy and hope of, 'life in all its fullness' (John 10.10).

The Governing Body of Five Stones 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 both the schools and their pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the schools and making sure their money is well spent.

Governance arrangements

One Governing Body continues to oversee the running of both Evenwood and St Michael's Schools There are representatives from both schools and each community on the GB and meetings will be held at each school when possible.

During the pandemic meeting have been held remotely using TEAMS or ZOOM.

Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body

Each September, the Senior Leadership Team produce a School Development Plan, in consultation with all members of staff and Governors. This plan identifies where attention will be focused to keep all aspects of the curriculum at the forefront of our efforts, educating the children to the best of our ability and to give them every opportunity to become the best they can be and have life in all its fullness. In the planning meeting early in the academic year, governors receive a report from the Head Teacher on our headline data across the schools with comparison data. This forms the basis of our monitoring focus. Reports are produced, by subject leaders, and submitted to the full Governing Body. On occasions, members of staff attend these meetings and are available to answer questions from governors. A Planning Meeting will still be held and will cover both schools.

The Head Teacher also produces a report each term, which is presented at the full Governing Body meeting. This covers school structure and organisation, staff information and responsibilities and then headings which follow the Ofsted framework: - the effectiveness of leadership and management, the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, personal development, behaviour and welfare, outcomes for pupils, early years provision and overall effectiveness. There are also sections on the performance management of staff, Pupil Premium, Sports Premium, if there are any looked after children, exclusions, and any incidents which require reporting. Governors can ask questions of the Heads of School or Executive Headteacher. We have also supported the SLT's at both schools as they run the English Hub and continue to lead the Durham School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) for Primary, which is run from the school. Staff from both schools are involved in supporting all aspects of the additional work undertaken.

Despite the lockdowns the English Hub has continued to offer support to schools and carry out audits. More information can be obtained from St Michael's website. Of course, from March 20 everything changed with the lockdown due to the Corona virus. This has continued in the 20/21 school year with more emphasis placed on remote learning and, consequently, on the provision of laptops and tablets to ensure all children can access remote learning. All members of staff and especially the Senior Leadership Team worked tirelessly to provide an education for all the children.

Assessment of Impact	<p>There are several different sources where the impact of what the staff and governors are doing can be measured. The Federation has obtained the services of a member of the Lingfield Trust who, amongst other things, is a current Ofsted Inspector who, each term, looks at various aspects of education provision within the Federation and this gives an independent assessment of the achievements and attainment of the children. The Department for Education (DfE) publish data for both schools and parents: -, School League Tables (can be seen on the website). Then there are the inspections carried out by OFSTED – these inspections provide a rigorous testing of the school’s judgement as to how well the school is doing. St Michael’s was inspected by OFSTED in September 2017 and was judged Outstanding in every area. Evenwood was inspected in June 2018 and was judged to be Good. This is all due to the hard work and professionalism of all the staff. Inspections are also carried out by the Church every five years and a copy of these reports, and those from Ofsted, can be seen on the school website. St Michael’s was inspected in March 2019 and was given the highest judgement of Excellent under the new inspection system.</p>
Future plans for the Governing Body	<p>Staff and Governors must continue to seek to make continuous improvements to the way our children are educated and to adopt and adapt to the continual changes being made to the curriculum and many other aspects of school life. From September 2021 the priority will continue to be to ensure that our children’s education, in the long run, does not suffer due to the restrictions imposed because of the virus. We cannot be complacent and allow the school to coast just because we have received a ‘Good’ or Outstanding marking from OFSTED. However, to ensure the children continue to make good or outstanding progress it is necessary for parents to be fully involved in their child’s education and support the school by ensuring that each child does their homework, reads and understands, and comes to school on time and is ready to learn. Governors will put an emphasis on staff well-being and continue to use TEAMS and ZOOM for meetings into 21/22, if necessary, to reduce any risk to health caused by the virus.</p> <p>Following consultations with all interested parties the Federation have been involved in detailed discussions with 1Excellence Multi Academy Trust with the intention that both our schools join the Trust - latest information is that the date of amalgamation of December 2021 seems likely and we look forward to this with the expectation that all schools in the Trust will benefit from the addition of the Federation.</p>
Contact Details	<p>The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school office.</p> <p>Details of the full Governing Body are on each school website.</p>