



**PINVIN CHURCH OF ENGLAND
FIRST SCHOOL**

Pinvin Federation Governors' Newsletter – July 2015

The End of a Busy Year

The first year of the newly formed Pinvin Federation is nearly at an end, and a very busy year it has been indeed! Guided by our new Chair of Governors, Kevern Oliver, and our new Executive Head Teacher, Andrew Best, the Governing Body has been doing a lot of work (some interesting, some less interesting but equally necessary) to ensure that both schools have been able to function effectively during this period of change.

As part of the new ongoing structure we intend to publish a termly newsletter to keep parents and carers informed about recent developments. A lot of what the Governing Body does isn't necessarily obvious to all but there is always a lot going on behind the scenes.

New Governors

We have recently welcomed several new members to the Governing Body, most notably our new Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Pershore, the Revd Claire Lording. We are very glad to have her on board and will welcome her valuable input over the coming years.



Other recent appointments have helped us to strengthen our links with different community groups and schools across the Avonbrook Cluster.

The Pershore Pyramid

There have been many interesting discussions and developments this year within the Pyramid. Although some of these have been difficult and led to much public debate, they have also resulted in the forging of much stronger links between all schools across the Pyramid. Kevern and Andrew have worked hard with other Chairs and Head Teachers to develop positive lines of communication on key issues, such as transition between schools and the sharing of good practice, expertise and key resources.

New Websites

We are currently in the process of updating the two school websites, as well as linking them together through a new Federation website at <http://pinvinfederation.weebly.com/>. This new portal will provide more information about the Federation and the Governing Body, as well as providing a portal for school policies and curriculum information.

We are looking to significantly expand the amount of information available through the websites to make them invaluable tools for all parents and carers.

There are also plans afoot to make the Governing Body more accessible via social media, and we are currently exploring Facebook, Twitter and other blogging sites. Watch this space!

Local Authority Review – First School

Local Authority inspectors came to the First School in May. They had a busy day observing lessons, speaking to the children and reviewing pupils' books. They noted significant improvements in behaviour and praised efforts to build stronger links with our various community groups. They recognised that relationships between staff and pupils were excellent, and that subject leaders were having a clear impact on learning. They concluded that provision had improved and that the quality of teaching and leadership was good overall. While there is always more that can be done, staff and pupils can be very proud of the progress made and their achievements to date. As governors we were very pleased to see staff responding to the huge challenges and delivering results.

Committees

Much of the work of the Governing Body is sub-divided to committees, each having strategic responsibility for a particular aspect of school governance. The newly formed Federation established three new committees to oversee these tasks. These committees are:

- *Teaching & Learning (T&L)*, chaired by David Bugg: Responsible for ensuring that our schools deliver a broad and balanced curriculum with a high standard of teaching and learning.
- *Resources*, chaired by Nick Watkins: Tasked with ensuring that the school budgets are managed in a robust and sustainable manner.
- *School & Community (S&C)*, chaired by Richard Elliott: Responsible for ensuring that arrangements for the wellbeing of pupils and staff are implemented effectively, as well as developing strong relationships with key stakeholders in our wider community.

The T&L Committee has responsibility for supporting and monitoring the academic performance of the Federation schools and their teachers. As part of this responsibility they work with the schools on overall strategies for teaching, including the curriculum and homework policy, and target progress and

achievement standards. Recently the Committee has been working with the Executive Head Teacher to understand and interpret government changes to the way that pupils are to be assessed and working with external assessors to ensure that the teaching strategies being used are delivering the very best possible outcomes for pupils.

The Resources Committee has been very busy in overseeing the resources of both schools as well as identifying funds to implement the school development plans. They have also been reviewing existing policies and creating new ones, most importantly the Federation Finance Policy. They have also been streamlining the financial processes of both schools to ensure a consistent approach, including incorporating the Middle School's business management function into the First School. They are also exploring opportunities to take advantage of the Federation's combined spending power to deliver cost savings on key areas such as IT and school dinners.

The S&C Committee has been reviewing communications between the Federation, pupils, parents and carers, and the wider community. They have been liaising with parents about how to improve communication, which has led to the continuing developments of all school websites and the introduction of this newsletter. They have also been exploring how the Christian values of the Federation can be further promoted at both schools and in the wider community, as well as incorporating them into the *Values For Life* themes. These are designed to ensure Christian distinctiveness and values in all aspects of learning and school life.

School Policies

Through the Committees the Governing Body has been reviewing all policies for both schools to ensure that both schools maintain a consistent approach, and all policies are in full compliance with current government regulations and diocese guidelines. This is a laborious and time-consuming task, but is essential to ensure the safe and effective operation of both schools. All policies are available to view at the Federation website, or you can ask to see a written copy at either school's reception.

Interested in Being a Governor?

We are always keen to hear from anyone who would like to help out with the Governing Body, either as a full governor or as an associate member. If you would like to know more please email Kevern Oliver at fedgovernors@st-nicholas.worcs.sch.uk or leave a message at either school's reception.