



PINVIN CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
FIRST SCHOOL

## The Pinvin Federation of Schools Governors' Newsletter – Summer 2016

### The End of a Busy Year

This has been another busy year for the Governing Body, where we have faced numerous interesting challenges that culminated in two major inspections within a week!

This year, Governors have carried out 24 focused visits to ensure the effectiveness of the School Improvement Plan. During meetings we have robustly challenged school leaders. A good example of this is how we have driven and monitored the improvement in mathematics teaching following concerns we had around pupils' achievement in this area.

One significant challenge has been the continued absence through illness of the First School's Head of School, Mr Warren Bennett. He continues to make progress and we wish him all the best for his future recovery and hope to see him back soon.

We have been delighted to welcome new colleagues to the Federation who are already positively impacting on the working practices at both schools. For example, Miss Natalie Rushden's arrival has enabled both schools to further develop their Inclusion practices. We have also been fortunate enough to welcome back experienced colleagues in the First School following maternity leave.

As the Federation moves in a new strategic direction, Governors will be working hard behind the scenes to ensure that progress made over the past 12 months continues in the coming years. We wish you all an enjoyable summer break and look forward to an even brighter new year.

### New Governors

This year we have welcomed two new members to our Governing Body. They have brought valuable insight and expertise to the team. They are: Alison Cartwright, who brings a wealth of Local Authority experience; and Helen Wadsworth, an experienced teacher who works at a local cluster school. We also said goodbye to David Bugg and Phil Norbury. We would like to thank them for their efforts over recent years and wish them all the best for the future.

### Ofsted & SIAMS

On 7th-8th June the Middle School was inspected by Ofsted. The inspection team conducted a rigorous assessment of the school and met with a large number of Governors to discuss what they had found. We were very proud of their GOOD rating of the school, and of their conclusion that *"Governors relentlessly ask highly challenging questions of the Executive Headteacher and school staff, holding them robustly to account for pupils' progress and attainment."*

On 15th June the Middle School underwent a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection. They also rated the school as GOOD, and commented that *"Governors know the school and articulate well the understanding of their role as strategic leaders of a church school,"* and *"Children know Governors and are able to ask them searching questions related to the Christian distinctiveness of the school."*

Details of both inspection reports are available at the new school website, [www.tpfos.co.uk](http://www.tpfos.co.uk).

Commented [ko1]: I think that Helen is a TA.

## Conversion to Academy Status

A major development that has been under discussion all year has been the future of our schools and their place within the Avonbrook Cluster and the Pershore Pyramid. After much discussion with governors and leaders from local schools, the Diocese of Worcester, the Regional Schools Commissioner, the Local Authority and other significant stakeholders, we took the unanimous decision to pursue joining a Multi-Academy Trust managed by the Diocese of Worcester (known as DMAT). This will enable our schools to convert to Academy status and work in closer partnership with other schools in the local area. This is an exciting time stage in the development of the Pinvin Federation as we formalise the already effective collaboration practices that we have worked hard to establish with other local schools. Details of this development were shared with a group of parents on 7th July and further information is available on the new website.

## Teaching & Learning (T&L) Committee

The T&L Committee, chaired by David Manning, has strategic responsibility for supporting and monitoring the academic performance of the Federation schools and their teachers. This positive work was recognised in the inspections conducted in June, with Ofsted noting clear evidence of progress and praising the significant improvements in the quality of teaching.

Inspectors saw clear evidence for the progress of all pupils and made the following comments about the quality of Teaching & Learning in St Nicholas: *"Historic progress information is not reflected in the current fast progress pupils are making in their learning. The latest school assessment information, which inspectors verified in an in-depth check of many books, show pupils' progress is accelerating rapidly from their individual starting points."*

## Resources Committee

The Resources Committee, chaired by Nick Watkins, has been very busy in overseeing the resources of both schools as well as identifying funds to implement the school development

## 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](mailto:fedgovernors@st-nicholas.worcs.sch.uk) or leave a message at either school's reception.

plans. Nick and his team will be playing a pivotal role as the school moves forwards towards Academy status within a newly formed MAT.

## School & Community (S&C) Committee

The S&C Committee, chaired by Debs Schindler, has been reviewing communications between the Federation, pupils, parents and carers, and the wider community. These have included helping to secure the Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) from Unicef. It was also decided to absorb the Christian Distinctiveness Committee into S&C as it was felt that it was important to embed Christian values in all of our work rather than have them as a separate area of discussion. We have also worked hard to secure improved outcomes for vulnerable learners, including SEND and Pupil Premium. These efforts have resulted in increased attendance and improved performance, and were recognised in both inspections.

## 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.

## Thank you for your feedback

As always parent feedback is positive to the cycle of improvement at the Pinvin Federation. We were pleased to have received many responses to the recent Parents survey and will be responding in more detail to the outcomes. We were pleased to see that responses were very positive in terms of children enjoying school and that the schools are well led and managed. We will be prioritising concerns regarding homework and whether the school acts on parents' suggestions over the course of the next academic year.

Commented [ko2]: Not sure this is working but it needs to. Will check with sue!