



FOXHILLS FEDERATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Newsletter to Parents October 2023

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support to our Foxhills Federation during its first year, and a warm welcome to children and parents who joined us in September.

At the first Board of Governors' meeting for the new academic year, Mrs. Howe updated governors on the rapid progress towards ensuring our key values of Care, Learn, Achieve, Engage and Reflect are embedded across the schools. All staff have worked hard to achieve this, sharing their common aims in teaching and learning, behaviour, safeguarding and care for all children. Their aim is to provide a secure environment in which our children feel safe, happy, and prepared to learn. The governors' primary aim in federating the two schools was to provide continuity of learning, care and experience for children from Year R to Year 6, and we feel this ambition is being achieved.

The Board of Governors.

We've had several changes to membership since our last newsletter in April 2023. Katrina Kemp and Michael Isherwood, co-opted governors, and Angela Ifould, parent governor, all resigned from the board. Katrina was Vice- Chair of governors and was Chair of the Infant School governors prior to federation. She was a vital member of the governors' federation working party and gave a great deal of energy and enthusiasm to the process. Michael Isherwood was the governor who had responsibility for ensuring the board fulfilled its safeguarding and child protection responsibilities, for which he was well qualified through his work in a residential school.

We thank our retiring governors for their support to the federation.

Election of a new Parent Governor.

We advertised for a new Parent Governor at the end of the Summer Term and are pleased to announce that Stephanie Toyne has filled this vacancy. She is a qualified teacher, and currently works in the Additional Educational Needs Department in Southampton. She will work with Caroline Hubbard, who is the Board's Additional Educational Needs Governor, and Mrs Sophie Foster, the Federation's SENCO.

Appointment of two co-opted governors.

The Board needed two co-opted governors to fill the vacancies created by resignations, and these have been filled by Helen Robinson and Claire Minnock.

Helen trained as a primary school teacher, and currently works for the New Forest National Park as an Adviser in Outdoor Education. She has two daughters, one in each school, and is keen to support outdoor learning on our amazing campus.

Claire also has two daughters in Foxhills and was voluntary secretary of the Ashurst Pre-School Committee for several years.

Our new governors are all keen to take advantage of the excellent training offered by Hampshire Governors Services, as well as any inhouse training that's available. Several governors joined staff on their October 6th INSET day which focussed on Safeguarding children. Staff and Governors must undertake Safeguarding and Prevent training annually.

Foxhills Federation Board of Governors Instrument of Government

This is the Board's legal constitution and was reduced from eighteen to fifteen members at the Board's meeting on 28th September, as eighteen was considered over large for the size of the federation. We are fortunate to have a full complement of governors, the majority of schools operate with around a 20% vacancy rate. A tribute to the interest and enthusiasm of parents and the local community!

Board of Governors' Meetings.

The full board meets five times a year, and the minutes of these meetings (other than confidential items) are posted when approved at [Minutes of Meetings | Foxhills Junior School \(foxhills-jun.hants.sch.uk\)](https://www.foxhills-jun.hants.sch.uk/minutes-of-meetings) . We do this as we feel parents should have access to the Board's proceedings in the interests of transparency and accountability. You will also find other information about the Board in the Governor section of the website. You can also contact the Chair of Governors by email at Governors@foxhillsfederation.co.uk

With best wishes for the Autumn Term

Ann Arcscott

Chair of Governors, for Foxhills Federation Board of Governors.