



Our Purpose

At The Blue Sky Federation our Governing Body has three main responsibilities

- To ensure that the vision, ethos and strategic direction are clearly set and achievable - *The Governing Body help decide the strategy for continuous improvement. They are not responsible for the day to day management of the school but focus on key issues that help to raise standards.*
- To hold school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of the staff - *The governors use their broad range of experience to support and constructively challenge the Executive Headteacher and staff to ensure the best possible teaching and outcomes for our communities.*
- To have oversight of the financial performance of the school – *The Governing Body ensure that the money budgeted is spent well across the federation and work with staff to ensure that they make best use of resources.*

2020/21

This year has been an unusual one yet we have remained focused on ensuring that the Federation's leadership and staff receive the support required to forge a way through these uncertain times.

Governors have continued to provide oversight and have regularly met, albeit virtually, to ensure that they have had a good understanding of challenges faced and the support required. Governors have focused on the critical areas where the school needed to make quick decisions and changes. The Federation have kept governors very well informed of the decisions they've had to make to meet the immediate governmental requirements. They have also shared information around the other key priorities that were set for this school year.

Our key priorities have included:

- Overview of safeguarding procedures and the impact of lockdown on our vulnerable families
- Discussion around the use of live lessons and virtual platforms for classes during lockdown and how these fit with the ethos of our schools
- Mental health and wellbeing of staff
- Health and Safety provisions in response to the pandemic, including approval of the Federation's risk assessments for both schools

Under normal circumstances, it is common for the governors to regularly be seen around the schools. However, to minimise contact at this time, regular meetings have been moved online and these have worked extremely well.

The Chair of Governors regularly meets with the Executive Headteacher and meetings have focused mainly on ensuring that the senior leadership team have regular opportunities for support and discussion around our response to the pandemic.

In order to provide full, informed support it has also been important for the Chair of Governors to keep regularly up to date about the various government guidelines and regulations coming from industry bodies.

The Governing Body recognises and acknowledges that it may be some time before our schools are returned to normal and going forward we will need to adapt and support the Federation with their proposed plans as these change to meet arising needs.

Governors continue to self-evaluate and assess the skills of the board members and actively look to strengthen the support they can offer to the Federation. They also look to ensure that the board is equipped with the right people and structures to support our schools fully now, and in the future.

As a Governing Body we have been extremely impressed with how responsive and resilient the staff across both our schools have been in adapting to the leadership changes that have taken place within the past year or so, and, on top of that, the onset of the global pandemic and the requirement to provide continued education for our children during this period. We are very grateful for the hard work and determination of our staff this year and for the adaptability and resilience of every member of our community.