

## Governors Annual Report – Academic Year 2019/2020

The autumn term started with a successful Ofsted report under the New Ofsted Framework for Wrockwardine Wood Infant School and Nursery. All areas were judged as good including leadership and management. *“Governors know the strengths and weaknesses of the school. They provide effective support and challenge to school leaders. This helps to ensure that the school continues to improve.”*

The governors welcomed positive news from the Ofsted Inspection of Oakengates Nursery School in January 2020 with a mix of good & outstanding judgements, the hard work by everyone involved was recognised. Leadership and Management was judged to be outstanding. *“The executive headteacher and leaders have made many much-needed changes. They are leading the school extremely well. Leaders, including governors, want the very best for the children. They have high aspirations. The curriculum is well thought out and leaders have ambitious plans for the children in their care. Adults are proud to work at the school. This really shows when they work with the children. They enjoy interacting with them and seeing them develop.”*

Every term Governors worked closely with the School Improvement Adviser and Middle Leaders, reviewing standards, identifying actions of improvement and recognising areas of success. Information from these meetings assist the Governing Board in the Head Teachers Performance Management process, where the Head Teacher is held to account for the Federation’s progress. The Governors continue to set challenging targets for the Head Teacher, guided by the School Improvement Adviser, that have a ripple affect across the SLT and teaching staff within both settings.

Strategic planning was demonstrated through agreeing policies and procedures to ensure compliance with key requirements. Admission limits were reviewed in order to ensure sustainability in line with the vision, aims and values of the federation. **‘Our aim is for children to thrive in a setting that has the children’s interests at the heart of all that is offered, resulting in high levels of motivation, where every child acquires and consolidates skills and knowledge at their highest level.’**

Governors regularly monitored the federation’s budget and reviewed pressures. The Governors discussed proposals from the local authority on changes to Wrockwardine Wood Infant School and Oakengates Nursery in order to ensure on-going financial stability.

Throughout the year the Governors have continued to engage in Health & Safety aspects of both settings, completing fire risk assessments in line with targets from audit inspections. Safeguarding is a high priority for the governors and is an agenda item at every meeting to ensure responsibilities are met. Actions are completed with the governor with responsibility for safeguarding and SLT members regularly in this regard. Governors have attended updates to keep abreast of legislation, eg safeguarding and SEND.

Due to the COVID pandemic the end of Spring Term and the whole Summer Term was a difficult time for everyone involved with the federation. Pupils and teachers have been impacted heavily by Covid-19, with many other difficult challenges and decisions being made. The Governing Board have worked with the federation extensively over this period, supporting where possible, and providing oversight where necessary. We were pleased that both establishments were able to remain operational on a reduced scale during most of this period, including school holidays. Children were also supported with home learning through learning packs and contact with staff via on-line media. Establishments were

made COVID safe due to the outstanding work of all staff involved. COVID risk assessments have been extensive and clear.

During this period the Governors continued to be supportive but challenging in a constructive way. Understanding the pressure and complexities being met by the Federation, yet still holding the SLT and Headteacher to account for pupil's progress and preparation activities for students return. Governing Board meetings were moved to virtual sessions to be COVID safe. Governors welcomed new parent governors to the Board - Mrs Parish & Ms Vaughan-Peate during the summer term.

During the summer term the Governors started to review the impact of the school closures both on school learning and finances and helped shape corrective actions. A recovery curriculum was planned by the SLT to ensure pupils are able to catch up with their learning as quickly as possible. This will form part of the School Improvement Plan during the next academic year.

Governors recognise the efforts and good work of all staff in contributing to the success of the federation. Thank you to all children, parents and the communities we serve that make the federation flourish.