

22nd July 2022

Dear All

A letter from the Chair of Governors to Children, Parents, Carers and Staff

The governors of the Devon Moors Federation have been meeting regularly over the past year, in the most part face-to-face, which has been a welcome relief from all the Zoom meetings of the previous school year. Full Governing Board meetings occur roughly once a month during term time and are interspersed with meetings of the Finance and Personnel Committee, where relevant issues are dealt with in greater detail.

As governors, we are responsible for the vision and strategic direction of our federated schools. We are also responsible for holding the Executive Head to account for the educational performance and wellbeing of all the pupils and through him, this also extends to all the Heads of School.

We are equally responsible for overseeing the financial performance of the schools and work closely with the Federation Business Manager to approve the budget and ensure that the available funds are used in the very best way possible. We are responsible for the allocation of finances not only for the teaching and learning but also the infrastructure and upkeep of the school premises.

One of the most difficult yet crucial matters that we dealt with this year was to decide on the future of Chittlehampton School. The decision that was reached was a culmination of extensive discussions and deliberations that have taken place, stretching back over a number of years. Although we wished that the outcome could have been very different, it was felt that it was ultimately the right one for both the individual pupils involved and for the Federation as a whole. The Governing Board would like to wish the children and staff of Chittlehampton the very best in their future endeavours.

An average governing board meeting might find us analysing termly Head of School reports, seeking clarification on performance in particular cohorts or subject areas; assessing the individual curriculum preparation within each school; dealing with the myriad of policies that are required for operating our federation; receiving and challenging reports from our Special Educational Needs Coordinator or our Data Protection Officer and actively discussing the content of School Improvement Plans.

Of course, we are not limited to just meeting in a formal way, after hours. All our governors try to visit as many of our schools as possible over the school year. We operate a system of Champion Governors, where one or two members of the board are 'assigned' to a school, getting to know it in more detail and striking up a relationship with both the head of school, staff and even the children; who can then report back in greater detail to the other governors.



Devon Moors Federation

Chittlehampton Primary School, The Square, Chittlehampton, Umberleigh, Devon, Ex37 9QW
Copplestone Primary School, Bewsley Hill, Copplestone, Devon, EX17 5NX
Filleigh Primary School, Castle Hill, Filleigh Barnstaple, Devon, EX32 0RS
Kilmington Primary School, Whitford Road, Kilmington, Devon, EX13 7RG
Shute Primary School, Haddon Road, Shute, Devon, EX13 7QR
Spreyton Primary School, Spreyton, Crediton, Devon, EX17 5AJ



We also arrange visits to coincide with school activities and productions to enable us to experience how the schools are providing for the children, beyond the classroom. Governors also arranged to visit each of our schools during the recent SATS, to act as observers.

Our current governors are a good mixture of parents, staff and others who are not directly connected to the schools but share a passion to help our children thrive. Some of us have a past or present educational background and others bring different but very relevant skills to the table. We currently have one vacancy on the governing board for a parent of a child attending one of our schools. If you think you might be interested in becoming a governor or you would just like to know more about the role, please contact the clerk@devonmoorsfederation.devon.sch.uk

We wish everyone a great summer break!

Chris Dack

Chair, on behalf of the Governing Board, Devon Moors Federation.



FILLEIGH
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

