

## Welcome from the Chair of Governors

Thank you for coming here to read this letter.

The governors of the newly formed **Blakeney, Pillowell and Walmore Hill Community Schools' Federation** are really proud to be part of such a vibrant and forward thinking school community. We work closely with our inspirational and committed head teacher, Brett Stevenson, his senior leaders and staff.

As a three school federation, the head teacher is shared across all three schools, as is the governing body. Expanding the federation has enabled the three schools to pool their strengths and experiences in the classroom, create economies of scale and effort, provide variety and challenge to the staff, use money more effectively, and improve leadership and governance to create a high quality learning experience for all our children, wherever they are.

The achievement of the children at our schools is central to our purpose as we carry out our roles as governors. Our role is to act as strategic leaders and our legal duty is to "conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement". In order to do this, our three strategic functions are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the federation.
2. Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the federation pupils.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the federation and making sure the money is well spent in each school of the federation.

The board is constituted to have twelve members. The head teacher is a governor, there are two parent governors (elected by all parents), a Local Authority governor (proposed to and accepted by Gloucestershire County Council) and one staff governor (elected by staff). We have co-opted additional members for their expertise. Please click on this link for the current membership of the [Blakeney, Pillowell and Walmore Hill Community Schools' Federation](#).

Each of the schools in the federation is presently rated by Ofsted as "Good", which means we must all continue to work with the head teacher and staff to maintain this level, and if possible, exceed it.

We recognise the very different communities each of the federation schools sits within, and the different pressures that exist locally, which does mean some decision making is different within the federation. However, as a board, we endeavour to ensure good and fair strategic decisions are made as a federation without fear or favour to any one particular school.

As a committed governing board, we welcome any feedback that may constructively help the federation move forward. Please feel free to send any ideas to me at [chair@blakeney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:chair@blakeney.gloucs.sch.uk)

Best wishes

Steve McMillan

Chair of Governors, Blakeney, Pillowell and Walmore Hill Community Schools' Federation

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