



Reach for the Stars

Goldstone Federation Governing Body Annual Report to Parents 2019-20



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Governors Annual Report!

Governing bodies are not required to produce an annual report however the Goldstone Federation believes it is important to be open and transparent with our school communities and have, therefore, decided to publish a report which explains the work of the governing body over the past year.

Without exception, this past year has been the most challenging the education sector has experienced. As a governing body we have responded by adapting governance to cover essential business only, to ensure our support has focussed on the schools' responses to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The governors have supported Mrs Williams and the staff by monitoring risk assessments, policies and procedures during this time and all information can be found on the school websites.

We would like to **thank all the parents who have supported their child's education from home during lockdown**. As a parent myself I know how difficult it has been to juggle work, life and school and we should all be proud of our children's academic and personal achievements.

We look forward to speaking to parents in person once circumstances allow. If you have any questions that you would like answering in the meantime then please complete the slip at the bottom of the report and leave it for the attention of the Clerk to Governors in the school office or email your question to governors@hinstock.shropshire.sch.uk.

Thank you.

James Cartwright, Chair of Governors

Who are the Governors of the Goldstone Federation?

Governors are unpaid volunteers who are dedicated to making the school the best it can be for the pupils, staff and community through hard work and commitment.

The governing body for Cheswardine and Hinstock Primary Schools is made up of the following:

James Cartwright	Chair of Governors
Keith Wilson	Vice-Chair of Governors
Rachael Williams	Executive Headteacher
Philip Stanton	Local Authority Governor
John Lutner	Co-opted Governor
Claire Denny	Co-opted Governor
Jonathan Deakin	Co-opted Governor
Davinya Reddall	Co-opted Governor
Sarah Mellor	Co-opted Governor
Gary Boyles	Parent Governor
Rachel Richards	Parent Governor
Gemma Watkins	Staff Governor

The governors are also supported by Associate Members Corinne Davies-Griffith, Lynda Hewson, Cathy Swinnerton, Steph Cartwright and Molly Jensen. There are currently no vacancies on the governing body however if you wish to be considered in the future then an enquiry form is available on the school websites. The structure of our governing body is determined by statutory government guidelines and we ensure that all governors undergo an ongoing training programme and agree to a Code of Conduct.

What does the governing body actually do?

There are 3 main aims to good governance:

- **Setting vision, ethos and strategic function:**
This includes setting and monitoring the schools aims and objectives, reviewing policies and monitoring the School Development Plan.
- **Holding the Headteacher to account:**
We make sure that the Headteacher is challenged for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, as well as the performance of the staff.
- **Overseeing financial performance:**
The Board makes sure that money is well spent.

These functions are carried out through termly full board meetings however much of the important work is undertaken in termly sub-committee meetings, covering curriculum, standards, finance, personnel and health and safety. The governors also monitor the school through visits linked to different areas of the school's education and development, therefore each governor is assigned a responsibility, such as safeguarding or quality of teaching. Further governance details can be found on the school websites, including governor details, attendance, past minutes and future meeting dates.

Highlights of the past year

For the governing body itself, the highlight of the year has undoubtedly been the formation of the Goldstone Federation. Existing governors from Cheswardine and Hinstock joined together to form a strong, committed leadership team with a broad range of skills to support both schools. Unfortunately, we said a fond farewell to some previous governors, including long-time Chair of Governors Martin Kent, however James Cartwright has taken over the role with great success.

The Federation has already benefitted both schools in many ways, such as collaboration between the staff members to strengthen teaching, resources and development; the pupils have benefitted from group events and learning opportunities and of course Headteacher Mrs Williams has become a permanent headteacher across the Federation. Everyone has adapted to the change very well.

The Governors would like to take this opportunity to **thank Mrs Williams, all the staff and everyone else who has contributed to the success of both schools in the last year.** They have gone above and beyond to support the parents and pupils by maintaining the schools for keyworkers at the start of lockdown, working through schools holidays to meet the constant demands of the government and now continuing to do their utmost to ensure the safety and mental wellbeing of all pupils during their final phases of return to school, whilst trying to teach within the restrictions of the COVID-19 difficulties.

We are grateful for the help and support from Hinstock's PTFA and Cheswardine's PTA which play vital roles in raising much needed funds, community events and activities for the pupils. We would like to especially thank Hinstock PTFA Chair Rachael Ashley and Cheswardine PTA Chair Kayleigh Williams for their commitment to the cause. Both associations currently have vacancies for new committee members, therefore if you are interested in making a difference to the school then please contact Mrs Williams in the Autumn term.

The future of the Federation

The governing body's priorities for the year ahead remain focused on the safety and wellbeing of all school staff and pupils. We will continue to focus on essential areas of governance and support the school leaders and staff as the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation evolves. Our immediate areas of priority for 2020-21 are:

- **Ensuring that all pupils are enabled to catch up on lost learning and achievement during lockdown:**
The governing body will support Mrs Williams and the staff to ensure that the curriculum is delivered as necessary, with excellent teaching standards, so that in the long term the children will achieve to the best of their abilities. We please ask that parents and carers play their vital part in this by supporting remote learning and encouraging their children.
- **Ensuring the wellbeing of all pupils and staff during and aiding recovery after lockdown:**
The governing body will support everyone's health and wellbeing through ongoing monitoring of health & safety and safeguarding, implementing accessible health and counselling services and providing an open door to anyone that needs it.
- **Supporting and encouraging growth at Cheswardine Primary School:**
This small rural school plays a vital role for the village and has been one of the best provisions for children during lockdown, with its large capacity but unfortunately low pupil numbers. The governing body will develop a strategy to increase the intake within the excellent nursery, the possible introduction of a breakfast and after-school club and within the school years themselves. If you know of anyone who is interested in nursery or school places for September 2020 please contact Mrs Williams.
- **Developing Hinstock Primary School to meet the demands of the growing community:**
Hinstock Primary School continues to grow in numbers and recent growth has been majorly related to new building developments in the village. Mrs Williams has comprehensive plans for accommodating all pupils in the Autumn term, within the confinements of the Coronavirus (COVID-10) situation, and the governing body will keep making the case for classroom expansion to Shropshire and Parish Councils.

The federation will continue to foster an environment of innovation and continuous improvement for the future. The two schools successfully exist in a mutually beneficial relationship, sharing resources and building on their respective strengths to deliver a high quality of education for ALL pupils.

Thank you for your support, particularly during these difficult times and we wish all our parents, carers, staff and pupils good health.

The Governing Body of the Goldstone Federation

*** Together we SHINE ***

Have a question for the Goldstone Federation Governing Body?

Governors are hoping to be able to meet parents and carers in the Autumn Term, however a date is of course yet to be confirmed. If you have any questions in the meantime then please complete the slip below, return it to the school office or email

governors@hinstock.shropshire.sch.uk.

Although Mrs Williams should always be your first port of call for discussing issues and making complaints, the Governors will be happy to reply to your queries.

Thank you.



Parent/Carer Reply Slip

My question(s) for the Governors is (are):

If you are not able to attend the events and would like to be contacted personally please detail below:

Name: _____

Preferred method of contact:

Telephone: _____

Email: _____