



Goldstone Federation Annual Governors Report 2020-21



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Governors Annual Report!

Even though governing bodies are not required to produce an annual report, the Goldstone Federation believes it is important to be open and transparent with our school communities and therefore we have published this report which explains the work of the Governing Body over the past year.

Another school year draws to a close, which brings sadness as children in year 6 leave to progress onto high School. However, this is also a happy time, to share in the success of these kind, talented, and brave children who have flourished despite all the challenges that the last 18 months has thrown at them.

Standing together in our communities as Teachers, Staff, Parents, Carers, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Friends and solid rural communities has seen all of our children thrive under immense unrest and undue pressures.

I am fortunate to be surrounded by a strong and passionate board of Governors, who have our villages, schools and children at their heart. We will strive to support, encourage and celebrate future success within the Goldstone Federation.

Let us hope that we can all meet up in the Autumn, face to face, to celebrate, in our special little corner of Shropshire.

We look forward to speaking to parents in person once circumstances allow. If you wish to get in touch, either 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, through a shared vision, work together in delivering that vision. The Governors are supported by statutory government guidance with an ongoing training programme and agreed Code of Conduct. The Governing Body for Cheswardine and Hinstock Primary Schools are:



James Cartwright
Chair of Governors



Gary Boyles
Vice Chair / Parent Governor



Rachael Williams
Headteacher



Phillip Stanton
Local Authority Governor



John Lutner
Co-opted Governor



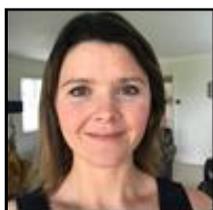
Jonathan Deakin
Co-opted Governor



Sarah Mellor
Co-opted Governor



Helen Williams
Co-opted Governor



Joanne Davison
Co-opted Governor



Lizzie Leek
Co-opted Governor



Gemma Watkins
Staff Governor

There is currently a parent governor vacancy and any parent who is interested in finding out more can complete an enquiry form, available on the school website, or contact any of the Governors for more information.

What does the governing body actually do?

The Governors:

- **Set the vision, ethos and strategy:**
This includes setting and monitoring the schools aims and objectives, reviewing policies and monitoring the School Improvement Plan.
- **Hold the Headteacher to account:**
This includes monitoring and challenging for the educational performance of the school, pupils and staff.
- **Oversee financial performance:**
Make sure that money is well spent.

Termly board meetings and sub-committee meetings are set throughout the year, covering curriculum, standards, finance, personnel and health and safety. The Governors monitor the school through visits linked to different areas of the school's education and development and each governor is assigned a responsibility linked to an interest or specialism, such as safeguarding or quality of teaching. Information is published on the school website.

Highlights of the past year

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.

The Governors would also like to **thank the children for their attitude and behaviour** during the trying circumstances they have faced. While working from home, they have demonstrated outstanding levels of effort and commitment to their education and home engagement levels were remarkable. Pupils also demonstrated resilience, adaptability and flexibility in their return to school-based education with the minimum of fuss and disruption.

The children should be proud of themselves and parents should be congratulated on facilitating this engagement by following school policies and doing their best to support them during the pandemic.

We encourage parents and carers to read the **Cheswardine Ofsted** reports following 3 visits in the last year. Ofsted recognised that the school is progressing well towards its targets and they are satisfied that these improvements are sustainable. There are many highlights within these reports and the Governors are happy that both schools within the Federation are improving and striving to achieve even more.

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 supporting the school then please contact Mrs Williams in the Autumn term.

And finally, we are very pleased to announce that the Governing Body and Hinstock School's long battle to improve road safety in the village has resulted in an upgrade to the **school crossing**. Thank you to Councillor Rob Gittins for helping to secure the funding and to everyone who helped build a case.

The future of the Federation

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. This is supported by the new Vision & Strategy which focuses on progress and achievement using a broad and balanced curriculum, as well as building mental, emotional and physical wellbeing resilience throughout the school community.

The Governors will also focus on:

- **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, boasting a large capacity and low pupil numbers. The Governing Body is developing a strategy to increase the intake within the excellent nursery and the introduction of a breakfast and after-school club. If you know of anyone who is interested in nursery or school places for September 2021 please contact the school office on (01630) 661233 or email admin@cheswardine.shropshire.sch.uk.

- **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. In September 2021 reception admissions have exceeded the admission number by 6 pupils, from 17 to 23. The Governing Body will keep making the case for classroom expansion to Shropshire and Parish Councils and this will be a topic for a focus group in the Autumn Term.
- **Our Community Relationship**
The Governing Body understands that it can be difficult for parents to get in touch with a Governor and understand how we support your child and school, so we welcome suggestions from anyone to help improve our communication skills. Let us know how you would like to hear from us and what you would like to know.
A celebration of our Federation, **Fed Fest, is taking place on Saturday 11th September 2021 2.00pm at Cheswardine School.** The Governors look forward to meeting staff, parents and pupils from both communities for lots of fun!

**Thank you for your support, particularly during these difficult times.
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 looking forward to meeting parents and carers at Fed Fest and in the Autumn Term, government guidance allowing. 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: _____