



Carlisle & Hampton Hill Federation

Governors Newsletter to Parents July 2023

Our Governing Board

Headteachers:

Zoe Brittain
Alan Wells

Chair of Governors:

Deb Long (LA Governor)

Vice Chair of Governors:

Barbara Clifford (Co-Opted,
and co-chair of A&F)

Co-Opted Governors:

Guy Elliott (Chair of F&P)
Casey Mouton
James Olsen
Jack Pannett (Co-Chair of A&F)
Sarah Parker
Luke Thomas (Chair of P&P)
Vacancy

Parent Governors:

Helen Cunningham
Lisa Day

Staff Governor:

Camilla Harvey-Jones

Associate Members:

Mandy Appleyard
David Wells
Danielle Fawcett
Priya Sriskantharajah
Alka Soni
Ros Morgan

Clerk: Lucy Amoroso

Dear all,

Every school year flies by quickly, but this year has seemed even faster than usual and there has been so much to celebrate and appreciate – particularly the 70th Anniversary of Carlisle Infant School just last week. Despite it being my first year as a governor at Carlisle & Hampton Hill Federation, and with other new governors joining us as well, we have made sure to knuckle down and get on with the job.

Full Board Meetings:

Our last full board meeting was at the end of June and was very much a chance to look at the progress in this term, listen to what the committees had to report and then looking at achievements of the federation & school development plans and start thinking about what will be the key focus areas for 23/24.

Governors also took some time this month to review our performance and as a result identify where we thought we could improve our practice going forward.

Hopefully you all saw Carlisle Infants on BBC London News on Monday evening – these are issues affecting all schools, not just our schools, and not just London schools, and it's important that we try and keep the issues around school funding in the news.

Committee Update:

Our committees have continued to focus on their key focus areas and details of this will be summarised in the Annual Governance Statement which will be sent out very shortly. Governors have continued to monitor progress against school improvement areas and carry out visits for the following areas: Behaviour, Attendance & Punctuality; Wellbeing; Safeguarding; Pupil Premium; English; SEND; Health & Safety.

Logo:

Thank you to all staff, children and parents who voted for the new federation logo. It was a close vote with 457 votes for option 1, and 482 for option 2. So our new Federation logo is option 2 as seen here →



Federation Strategy Meetings:

We have met monthly during this school year and our last meeting was at the beginning of July where we reviewed what's been achieved during 22/23. Lots of progress has been made but we are very aware that there is still a lot to do. Key progress this year has been:

Transition from year 2 at CIS to year 3 at HHJS: staff have worked hard to try and address some of the issues that you raised last Autumn term and to try and ensure transition between the schools is a smoother experience for children and their families. We won't know the impact of the work until September and there will be a year 3 parent survey during the autumn term to ask your opinion, and this will guide work for next year as I'm sure there will still be more to do.

Uniform: As we move towards a federation uniform, lots of work has been done this year around a new federation logo and working with uniform suppliers to understand our options. We loved seeing all the children's ideas for the logo and their ideas formed what has now been chosen as the new federation logo (see below). Following on from this, we have reviewed the vision, mission and values of both schools to create a new version that will be the drivers behind all our work from September. It was important that this work was done so that staff and families at both schools, as well as children and governors, are working to the same values and with the same purpose. Thank you to the parents that came along to the focus groups that we held at each school.

Budget: I cannot emphasise enough the challenges that we are facing due to severely inadequate school funding. The recent decision to award teaching staff a 6.5% increase is definitely welcomed. 3% of this will be funded by the DfE and this is at least something to be grateful for, however in reality all it means is that we won't be any worse off than we currently are. Things are very challenging and will continue to be so, but be reassured that our amazing staff continue to focus on the children, their needs, and their outcomes, and governors will continue to work with school leaders to find ways to achieve what is required despite these ongoing challenges.

Time to say goodbye...

At the end of this term, we have said goodbye to Gemma Jones who has been with our board for a year, and Emma Simpson who has been with us for 4 years – we truly appreciate all their work for our schools.

We also say goodbye to staff that are leaving both schools and send them all our very best wishes for the future.

And of course we say goodbye to the children who are moving on – to the year 2s who are leaving Carlisle and joining Hampton Hill – we'll see you in September and are sure that everything you have learned and achieved at Carlisle will have prepared you well for juniors and beyond – I was lucky enough to be at the Carlisle leavers assembly last week, what a treat that was! And to the year 6s leaving Hampton Hill and moving on to secondary school, we wish you all the happiness and success that you deserve.

And finally.....

I just wanted to say a personal thank you to those that I have met this year in my first year as a governor at Carlisle & Hampton Hill Federation. You have all been very welcoming and friendly and whilst I have enjoyed my first year, I know that there is still lots to do. So, like you, I and my fellow governors will enjoy the break over the summer and will return in September ready to work hard.

With our very best wishes,
Deb Long
Chair of Governors
Carlisle & Hampton Hill Federation

