



Hovingham & St Hilda's CE (VC) Primary Schools Federation

Headteacher Mr J. Pynn MA NPQH



2nd October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to introduce myself as your new Chair of Governors. I have been a governor at the federation for three years and both my children now go to Hovingham School (my youngest went to St. Hilda's Nursery). I have worked in both university and secondary school education.

Before I became Chair, I was the Link Governor for Literacy and had great pleasure in seeing good development in this subject which included: a new marking and feedback policy, *Talk for Writing* and, most recently, a new approach to phonics teaching. Last term, I read some marvellous letters from pupils in Hovingham's Worsley class persuading our local MP to champion environmental issues – a brilliant opportunity to give their writing a real-life audience!

I thought this might be a good opportunity to explain in a bit more detail what being a governor involves. On a practical, day-by-day level, it is not always apparent how closely linked to school life governors are.

The Department for Education define governors' responsibilities according to three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

This means that we at Hovingham and St. Hilda's work together to help form strategies to improve the schools; we check how effective the schools are in supporting their pupils and staff to achieve the best they can; and we help the Head to get the best value out of the money that is available to us.

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As Governing Body, we are here to support, encourage and challenge our Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and all school personnel. The work of governors is always collaborative and all decisions made by the governors is done so through the Full Governing Body meetings. Above all, our key aim is to ensure that every one of our children can access the curriculum and is given the opportunities to enable them to grow and reach their full potential.

Each governor at Hovingham and St. Hilda's has a specific 'link' role in order to monitor the quality of teaching and learning in key areas of the curriculum and they identify the impact it is making on learning. In the following half-termly newsletters, you will hear from each Link Governor and a bit about the work they have done in each school.

Finally, in order to carry out our role as Governors effectively, we need to know what issues are important to you. If you would like to raise anything with us or put forward any ideas you have for the schools then I, and the governing body, would love to hear from you. You can email me at: clare.almond@hshafed.co.uk

Many thanks and I look forward to working with you!

Clare Almond

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