



**The BAWB Federation**  
**Bainbridge, Askrigg, and West Burton Primary Schools**  
*Mid-Dale Excellence in Education*

Executive Headteacher: Miss Charlotte L. Harper

**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**  
**of the BAWB Schools Governing Board 2019**

**The Governing Board of the federation of Bainbridge Church of England  
Nursery and Primary School, Askrigg VC Primary School and  
West Burton Church of England Primary School**



## Our vision:

### *'Mid-Dale Excellence in Education'*

Working together we will provide a broad and rich education of the highest standard through which our children will be prepared for the future, confident and motivated to develop and learn.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing boards, the three core strategic functions of the BAWB Schools Governing Board are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
  - Setting the vision, values, and objectives for the federation of schools
  - Agreeing the School Development Plan with priorities and targets
  - Meeting statutory duties
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the schools and their pupils
  - Appointing the executive headteacher
  - Monitoring progress towards targets
  - Performance managing the executive headteacher
  - Engaging with stakeholders
  - Contributing to school self-evaluation
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the federation and making sure the schools' monies are well spent
  - Setting the budgets
  - Monitoring spending against the budgets
  - Ensuring value for money is obtained
  - Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed

## Governance arrangements

There is a single Governing Board for the BAWB Schools, which is made up of 11 governors.

- One Local Authority governor
- One Executive Headteacher
- One member of staff
- Three foundation governors
- Two parent governors
- Three co-opted governors
- Two associate members

Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Board and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Board, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the federation: our co-opted governors are also members of our local communities, though this is not a requirement. Two of our foundation governors are appointed by the Diocese (for Bainbridge and West Burton Schools) and one is appointed by the Yorebridge Educational Foundation (for Askrigg School). The two parent governors are elected by parents from all three schools, and the local authority governor is appointed by North Yorkshire County Council. Associate members are appointed on a time-limited basis to provide particular expertise (usually as identified by a skills audit). Associate members do not have voting rights but may advise the board in specific areas.



### The skills and commitment we require for effective governance

Across the Governing Board, it is essential to have a range of skills, which include:

- Analytical skills
- Understanding of and/or experience of governance
- Analytical skills to hold the headteacher to account
- Financial literacy

These skills must be underpinned by a commitment to the vision and ethos of the federation. We are committed to improving the education for pupils across the federation without bias or preference. We are committed to working in a professional manner as part of a team and take collective responsibility for decisions.

### Annual programme of meetings

Under Federation, our single governing board has met at least monthly. It was agreed that at the start of the Federation, all governors would attend every meeting to become familiar with all areas of future committee work.

During the last 12 months the Board has discussed the future for all 3 schools. Discussion has also centred around a second defederation request from the West Burton Action Group. The Board is now focussed on finding ways to work collaboratively with all three school communities in the federation, to try to ensure a sustainable future for all three schools.

Discussions have also been held with the local authority and diocesan representatives together with various communications with parents and communities.

### BAWB School Improvement Committee (attended by all governors)

This committee monitored and reviewed pupil performance data and outcomes, the curriculum, Special Educational Needs and Disability provision, staff performance management and the staffing structure to ensure it was fit for purpose and financially viable.

Over the last year we have:

- Ensured all appropriate policies are reviewed and agreed
- Rigorously measured pupil attainment and achievement through data analysis
- Scrutinised data to ensure Maths initiatives are having an impact
- Monitored the impact of Pupil Premium funding in closing the gap in achievement
- Held the headteacher to account following governor monitoring in key areas of the School Development Plan
- Agreed to continue external leadership for Special Educational Needs provision (SEND)
- Monitored provision and outcomes for pupils with SEND
- Monitored the impact of the RESPECT code

### BAWB Resources Committee (attended by all governors)

This committee acknowledged a deficit position for the BAWB federation and put in place actions to manage and reduce it. Financial monitoring has been robust. This committee also dealt with premises, health and safety and all aspects of Safeguarding.



Over the last year we have:

- Ensured all appropriate policies are reviewed and agreed
- Further scrutinised regular monitoring statements of the School Budgets
- Set the school budget for approval by all governors
- Agreed Service Level Agreements with NYCC, ensuring best value
- Monitored Pupil Premium expenditure and its impact
- Monitored Sports Funding expenditure and its impact
- Monitored Health and Safety and ensured compliance with recommendations
- Monitored premises management
- Completed annual Safeguarding Audit

Approved minutes of Governing Board meetings can be obtained by contacting the school offices.

### Governor training and development

Over the last year, all the governors in the federation have had various training opportunities. This includes:

- On line Safeguarding training
- New SIAMS inspection framework training
- Local authority improvement network training
- New governor induction training
- NEBOSH certificate in Health and Safety Excellence

### How we undertake monitoring in the schools

Over the school year, all the BAWB governors have been involved in monitoring different areas of school development. This year, we have looked at:

- Leadership and Management
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment
- Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare (including British values)
- Outcomes
- EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)
- Church School Ethos (and SIAMS) - Bainbridge and West Burton only
- Health and Safety
- Safeguarding

By visiting the schools, questioning staff and pupils, using an evidence based approach, we are holding the Headteacher to account for the performance of the schools and the achievement of the pupils.

Monitoring reports are scrutinised at meetings and the Headteacher answers any questions raised. Any actions that follow this process are implemented, where appropriate, and are fed into the School Development Plan. Our reports inform the school self-evaluation process, which Ofsted use when developing their lines of inquiry for an inspection.



## Strategic Planning for the future

Improving our performance

As school governors of our federation, although we all come from various walks of life, we have a shared vision for improving the educational opportunities and outcomes for every child across all three schools.

We have a 3-5 year Strategic Development Plan which informs the School Development Plan, and it is aspects of this plan that we as governors monitor each term.

We are continually trying to improve ourselves as governors, and thus provide stronger leadership, support and challenge. As well as undertaking training, we have updated our skills audits and are aware of our future training needs.

Our aim is for the schools to be graded outstanding by Ofsted.

## The IMPACT of good governance

What has been the impact of our governance over the last year?

- All three schools are now administered under one budget
- High quality staff professional development from within and beyond the three schools, has led to improving provision for pupils
- A steady improvement in pupil progress
- Improvement in the quality of teaching and provision especially in EYFS at Bainbridge
- The embedding of subject leadership
- Ensuring all our statutory duties are met
- A rigorous Headteacher Performance Management
- Rigorous and high quality monitoring and reporting of priority areas in the SDP\*
- Listening to, and working well with our three communities

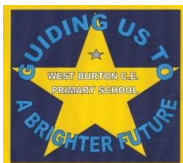
\*SDP\_School Development Plan

## Strategic planning

We are looking ahead as a Governing Board to assess the future of our small rural schools. We believe that becoming a federation has provided us with an opportunity to strategically address the challenges faced by small rural schools under the current budget restraints.

We remain committed to exploring strategies and working closely with the LA and Diocese to address the issues of falling pupil rolls and future budget deficits. In the meantime we continue to strive to find ways to have the best teaching, leadership and provision for all our pupils across the school sites.

Information about the BAWB Governing Board is available on the governors' page of the schools' websites



### BAWB Schools Governing Board – membership

Governor	Category	Term of office ends
Charlotte Harper	Executive headteacher (ex officio)	N/A
Eleanor Harrison	Staff	April 2020
Derek Walpole	Local Authority	April 2020
Suzanne Wright	Foundation (Bainbridge)	October 2021
David Madley	Foundation (Askrigg)	December 2020
Heather Limbach	Foundation (West Burton)	December 2020
Georgina Pickard-Sparne	Parent	April 2020
Laura Alderson	Parent	June 2021
Cathy Bergs	Co-opted	April 2020
Martin Garside	Co-opted	April 2020
Allison Calvert	Co-opted	May 2023

### BAWB Schools Governors' Attendance record for September to July 2018-2019

Governor	Attendance (all meetings)	
C. Harper	6/6	100%
E. Harrison	10/10	100%
S. Wright	10/10	100%
G. Pickard-Sparne	10/10	100%
C. Bergs	8/10	80%
M. Garside	9/10	90%
D. Walpole	10/10	100%
D. Madley	6/10	60%
H. Limbach	9/10	90%
L. Alderson	6/10	60%
A. Calvert	2/2	100%

Associate Members	Attendance (all meetings)	
D. Clegg	5/7	71%
D. Clark	4/10	40%

Others	Attendance (all meetings)	
M. Price	4/5	80%