Summer 2026

Federation Governor Newsletter



Hi I'm Dave, Chair of The Federation of Gatten and Lake and Greenmount Primary Schools. Welcome to the first federation newsletter. In these termly updates we will be sharing information about our roles as governors, termly reviews, what our priorities are, and how we are working across both schools.

Our governors are a committed group of volunteers who bring diverse skills and experience to their roles. We engage in ongoing monitoring activities, including learning walks, meetings with staff, and analysis of school data, to ensure that statutory responsibilities are met and every child receives a high-quality education. We hope you find these updates useful and we welcome feedback for future editions.

Termly review - Summer 2026

This term, Governors have considered a number of key local issues, including concerns regarding the falling roll and its impact on the current academic year, as well as the challenges anticipated for the September intake. Governors also discussed national changes to the Ofsted framework. In addition, Governors reviewed safeguarding action plans and health and safety audits, received finance reports for budget monitoring, and considered the Headteacher's report, which included information on pupil attendance and staff attendance.

Governors also reviewed a range of policies and agreed the monitoring cycle, which includes scheduled dates for school visits, during which specific identified areas will be observed and discussed, such as pupil premium, safeguarding and health and safety.

Spotlight on: Finance Committee

The Finance Committee ensures both school's financial stability and alignment with its goals. It establishes and recommends a three-year budget plan, reflecting the priorities of the School Improvement Plan.

Key responsibilities include:

- Drafting and adopting the annual budget, covering revenue and capital expenditure
- Monitoring income and expenditure throughout the year
- Allocating and evaluating pupil premium funding
- Overseeing financial management through the School Financial Value Statement (SFVS)

The committee also reviews financial procedures annually, ensuring policies for budget management, procurement, and asset disposals are up to date. They oversee significant expenditure requests and address budget variances, ensuring both school's finances support each school's long-term success.

Governor visits in school

As well as having termly meetings, Governors also visit both schools regularly to take part in monitoring visits. These visits include talking to staff, students and other professional bodies. Recently, governors undertook the following visits:

- Learning Walk (G&L)
- Attendance (G&L and GM)
- Pupil progress (GM)
- EYFS (G&L)
- Pupil Premium review (GM)
- SATS overview (GM)

By spending time in classrooms, meeting staff and pupils, and seeing learning in action, governors gain valuable insight into school life. Their visits strengthen decision-making, celebrate successes, support improvement, and ensure every child receives the best possible education and opportunities.

Meet the govenors



Dave Smithers
Chair



Sue Burton
Vice Chair



George Speller
Co-opted Governor



Wendy Dent
Co-opted Governor



Amy Summers
Parent Governor



Barry Grant
Local Authority Governor



Jeanne Jones
Co-opted Governor



Julia O'Connell
Co-opted Governor



Lanah Moody
Parent Governor



Rebecca Day
Executive Headteacher



Eddie Sherwin
Staff Governor



Alison Lockey
Clerk to Governors

What is a school governor?

A school governor is a volunteer who helps oversee how a school is run and supports its long-term success. We work with the Executive Headteacher and senior staff to set the school's vision, make sure money is spent wisely, and ensure pupils get a high-quality education.

Rather than being involved in day-to-day teaching, we, as school governors focus on big-picture decisions, accountability, and representing the interests of students, parents, and the wider community.

Find out more



For more information about the role of the governors, please visit:

- gattenandlake.co.uk/governing-body
- greenmountiow.co.uk/about/governing-body