



Kirkby-in-Malhamdale United (VA) Primary School
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Executive Headteacher: Mr Richard Wright

Dear Parent /Guardian

As you will be aware, since the start of the new academic year, Settle Primary School and Kirkby Malham Primary School have been operating under a new Federation arrangement. Whilst you will probably have noticed very little change in terms of day to day running of your child's school, the key change behind the scenes is that we now function under one single Governing Body.

Over a period of weeks the composition of the new Governing Body has been carefully considered, to ensure there was representation from both school communities and crucially that we had the right balance of skills and experience to create a strong board, capable of taking this Federation forward. I am pleased to inform you that this process is now complete, and the purpose of this letter is to introduce your new Governing Body.

The 12 Governors are:

Parent Governors – Amanda Dawson and James Fryer

Headteacher – Richard Wright

Staff Governor – Amanda Allen

Local Authority Governor – Rachael Caton

Co-opted Governors – Sophie Eddleston, Emma Carr, Michael Gudgeon

Foundation Governors – Alison Hulse and Tim Broughton (Settle), Viv Buckland and Liz Wherity (Kirkby Malham)

The Chair of Governors will be myself, Rachael Caton and the Vice Chair of Governors will be Michael Gudgeon. For those of you who do not know me then I would like to introduce myself. My husband Ashley and I farm in Otterburn and we have four children, aged 12, 10, 9 and 7, three of who are at Kirkby Malham School, with the oldest now at secondary school. Prior to having children I worked as an Operational Manager, a varied role which involved managing operational assets, a team and financial budgets. I have been a Governor at Kirkby Malham for nearly three years and for much of that time I was Vice Chair. I was also Chair of the Resources (finance) Committee, was the link Governor for the Early Years and Foundation Years (EYFS) and was one of the Governors who met with the Inspector during Kirkby Malham's recent Ofsted Inspection.

One of the key priorities for the new Governing Body will be to make sure that we are prepared for the forthcoming Ofsted Inspection at Settle, which will take place anytime between now and Spring 2020. I and other Governors will be making visits into both schools over the coming weeks and months, as part of our routine monitoring role, but also to familiarise ourselves with both of the schools. One of the great advantages of a Federated Board is that we will be able to build on the strengths of each school and work together to share ideas. For example, where we have had a Governor responsible for Safeguarding in Settle and one in Kirkby Malham, in future they will be able to work together on Safeguarding across both schools. The aim of the Federated arrangement is to further improve the provision, capacity and expertise of both schools and we hope that the parents and children will see the benefits of our closer working arrangement first hand with the planned activities taking place this year. However the two schools will maintain their very distinct identities and an important aspect of this are the Foundation arrangements. At Settle the Church

School ethos will remain unchanged and will be championed by the two Diocese representatives on the Governing Body, Alison Hulse and Tim Broughton. At Kirkby Malham the Foundation Board will continue to meet separately to manage assets that the school owns, whilst providing input into the Federated Board via its two Foundation representatives, Viv Buckland and Liz Wherity.

Whilst there are representatives from both school communities on the new board, I would like to point out that all Governors are there to champion the interests of both schools, not to represent 'their' school. This is obviously a change in approach to governance from that we are used to, but it is one that all of the Governors have already embraced and will develop further over time. If everyone connected with the two school can adopt the same approach then it will greatly support our Governors and Headteacher in making this Federation a success.

Further information about all of the Governors and their roles and responsibilities will shortly be made available on your respective school websites and I would encourage you to familiarise yourself with who they are. I will be providing regular updates on the work of the Governing Body throughout the year, but if you ever need to contact me my e mail address is r.caton@kim.n-yorks.sch.uk

I look forward to working with you all,

Kind regards

Rachael Caton

Chair of Governors

Settle and Kirkby Malham Federation Governing Body