

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

**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:

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.

'Mid-Dale Excellence in Education'

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

Before April 2016, our three schools each had a separate Governing Board. On April 1st 2016, the three schools became federated and one Governing Board was formed.

The Governing Board of the BAWB Schools is made up of 12 governors:

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

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 skills and commitment we require for effective governance

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

- Understanding and/or experience of governance
- Vision and strategic planning
- Holding the headteacher to account
- Financial oversight
- Knowing the schools and communities

These skills must be underpinned by a commitment to the vision of the federation and its ethos. 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

Prior to federation, termly committee meetings took place (Resources and School Improvement) that involved governors representing all three schools. Full Governing Board meetings were always held jointly with Askrigg and Bainbridge governors, and West Burton often met separately.

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

Attendance record of governors

Governors have an excellent attendance at meetings. A meeting has never been cancelled because it was not quorate, ie. the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made.

A record of attendance is kept by our clerk to the Governing Board, Dominique Adams (The attendance record of our groups of governors is in Appendix 1)

Committees and Full Governing Board meetings

This has been a busy academic year for our Governing Boards and the new BAWB Schools Board (since April 2016) and the commitment to the role shown by all the governors has been exemplary.

Our work, as always, has been focussed on school improvement. Providing the best possible education and opportunities for all our pupils is always central to the decisions we make, especially with the financial constraints of three small rural schools.

Full Governing Board Meetings (prior to April 2016)

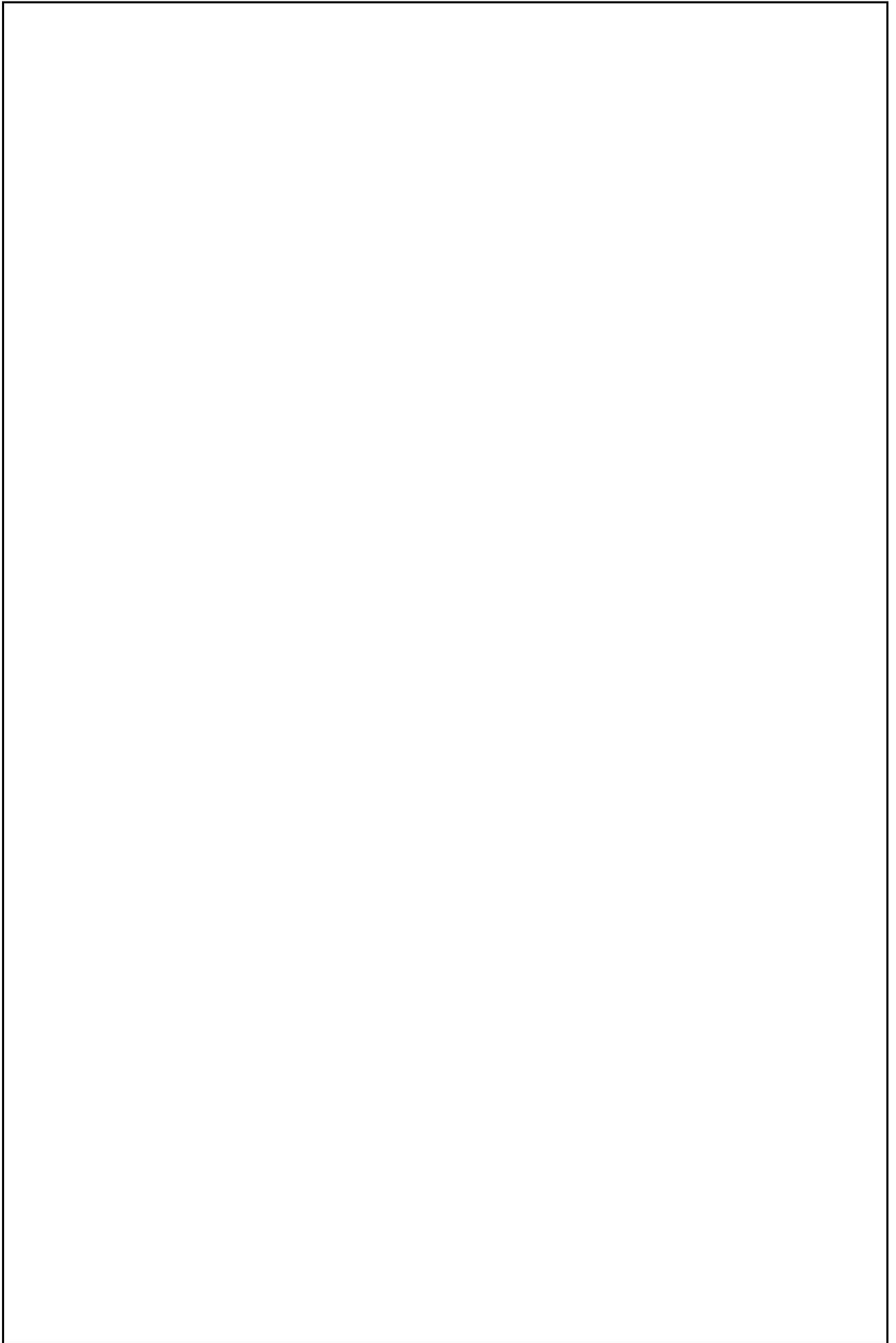
Our Full Governing Boards meetings focussed on strategic issues and school development and received reports from all the committees.

Over the last year we have:

- Separately agreed to form a Federation of three schools (BAWB)
- Formed a Joint Development Committee to lead and manage collaboration
- Undertaken the formal process for federation, including community consultation
- Federated on 1st April 2016
- Agreed to pool the school budgets to share resources and streamline administration
- Ensured all appropriate policies are reviewed and agreed
- Worked to our 3-year policy review schedule
- Taken part in the School Self Evaluation process
- Appointed and monitored (2 temporary) Base Leaders
- Received feedback about the Parents Forum
- Agreed strategic expenditure, eg EYFS play equipment, ICT
- Agreed a schedule of governor monitoring, based on school priorities
- Agreed a training schedule to develop all governors' skills and understanding
- Monitored the impact of joint staff professional development
- Monitored the outcomes of Educational Development Adviser visits to the 3 schools
- Been involved with the Swaledale Teaching Schools Alliance
- Supported the Headteacher in a Challenge Group with other Headteachers
- Celebrated the GOOD outcome of the Section 8 Ofsted inspection at Askrigg (Nov 15)
- Taken part in a recruitment process to appoint new teachers

Full BAWB Governing Board Meetings (since April 2016)

- Reviewed our skills audits to identify training needs
- Undertaken a new round of monitoring, based on federation priorities
- Appointed one new teacher for September 2016
- Identified future deficit budgets and considered options to restructure classes
- Agreed the need for strategic planning to reduce future deficit
- Contributed to an Open Forum for parents about future class restructuring



BAWB School Improvement Committee (prior to April 2016)

This committee monitored and reviewed pupil performance data and outcomes, the curriculum, Special Educational Needs and Disability, 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
- Approved changes to the school curriculum
- 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
- Monitored progress made in Pupil Voice

Since April 2016, this work has continued with the new BAWB Full Governing Board

BAWB Resources Committee (prior to 2016)

This committee managed the schools' finances by monitoring and evaluating the financial performance and acknowledging future deficits. 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
- 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
- Agreed the sharing of certain costs across the collaboration, e.g. some staffing
- Monitored Pupil Premium expenditure and its impact
- Monitored Sports Funding expenditure and its impact
- Monitored Health and Safety
- Monitored premises management
- Completed annual Safeguarding Audit
- Ensured all safeguarding policies, practices and procedures are in place

Since April 2016, this work has continued with the new BAWB Full Governing Board

BAWB Joint Development Committee (prior to April 2016)

This committee was set up to provide collaborative leadership and management across the three schools. Its membership included the Headteacher, 3 Chairs of Governors and 6 Chairs of committees. It ceased in March 2016 when the three governing boards were dissolved. This committee carried out all the procedural work prior to the final agreement to federate by each of the three governing boards in March 2016.

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 our collaboration, and now in the federation, have had various training opportunities. This includes:

- training for new governors
- understanding the new curriculum and how it is assessed
- using RM Unify and cloud based technology
- finance
- strategic roles and responsibilities
- understanding Academisation being a Church School
- accessing NYCC support during the federation process
- attending termly School Improvement Network meetings (NYCC)
- understanding the Prevent Strategy
- attending termly Swaledale Alliance network meetings for Chairs

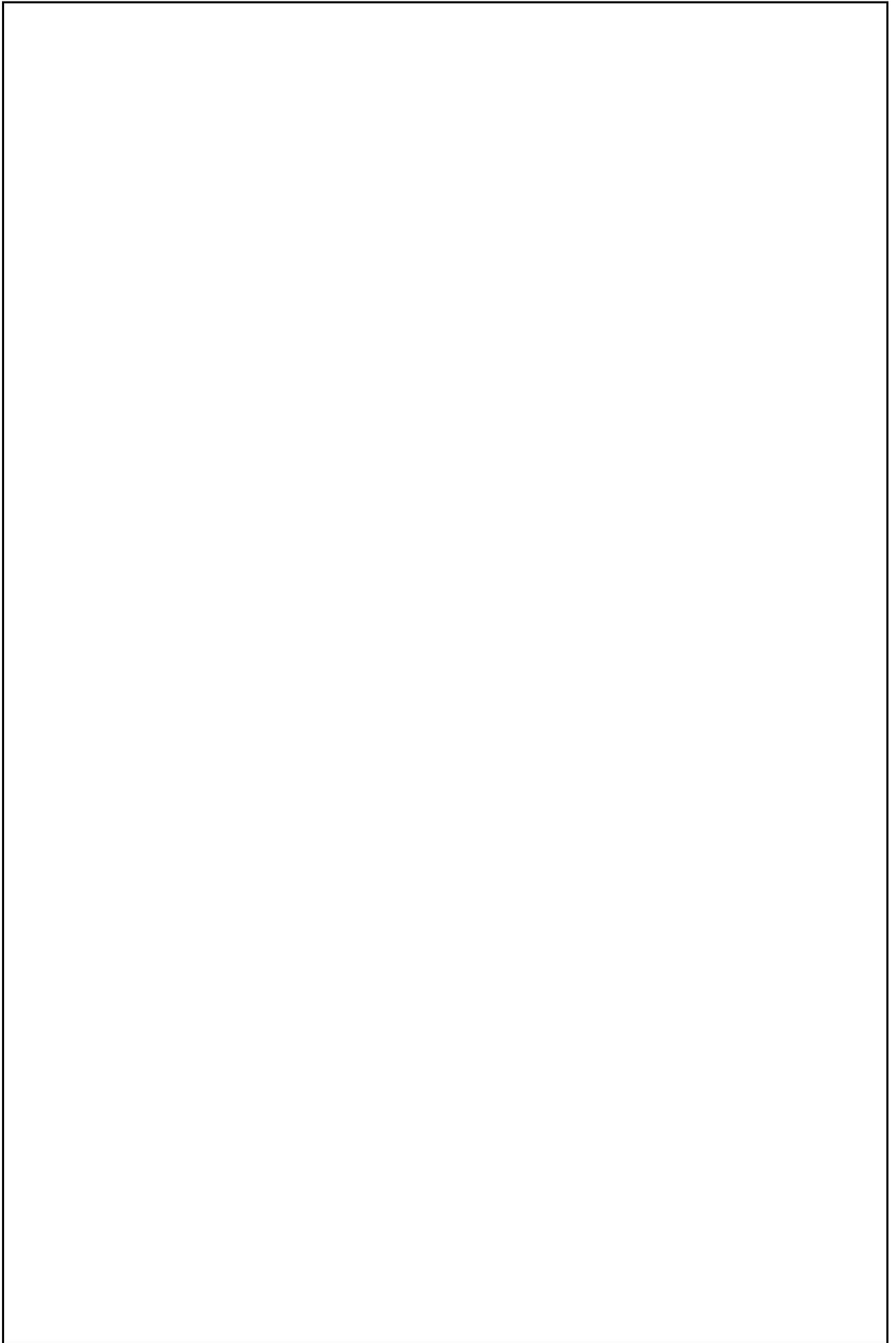
How we undertake monitoring in the schools

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, and looking for evidence, we are holding the Headteacher to account for the performance of the schools and the achievement of the pupils. Before federation in April 2016, governors monitored in teams across the schools: now we are federated, each governor takes on a different area to monitor and report on, and over time will visit each school.

Monitoring reports are scrutinised at meetings and the Headteacher answers any questions we have. Any actions that follow this process 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.



Improving our performance

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

We are continually trying to improve ourselves as governors, and thus provide stronger leadership, support and challenge.

As well as undertaking training before and after federation, we have upgraded our skills audits and are aware of future training needs.

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.

Our aim is for the schools and governors to be graded **outstanding** by Ofsted in the future.

The IMPACT of good governance

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

- Streamlining of governance and financial administration with federation
- Forming a federation to create greater security with future changes
- High quality staff professional development from within and beyond the three schools, improving provision for pupils
- Deployment of staff across three schools and ensuring consistent/temporary teachers
- The appointment of temporary base leaders from existing staff
- Establishing the new National Curriculum and ways to assess pupil progress
- 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*
- Continual improvements in IT capability
- Holding the Headteacher to account for standards achieved
- Keeping abreast of national issues and changes in education
- Being prepared for a future of possible academisation

*SDP = School Development Plan

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Strategic planning

We are now 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 outcomes of the Government's White Paper (2016) – **Educational Excellence Everywhere**.

There are some very important elements to the White Paper around academisation and small school funding which will have a significant impact on our schools.

In September 2016, we will be agreeing the way ahead to address the issues of falling pupil rolls and future budget deficits.

In the meantime we are striving 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

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admin@westburton.n-yorks.sch.uk

BAWB Schools Governing Board – membership

Governor	Category	Term of Office Ends
Charlotte Harper	Executive Headteacher	N/A
Eleanor Harrison	Staff	March 2019
Di Clegg	Local Authority	April 2020
MaryRose Kearney	Foundation (Bainbridge)	Sept 2017
Heather Hodgson	Foundation (Askrigg)	Sept 2018
Marysia Holubecki-France	Foundation (West Burton)	
Georgina Pickard-Sparne	Parent	April 2020
Cathy Bergs	Parent	April 2020
Aaron Davis	Parent	April 2020
Martin Garside	Co-opted	April 2020
Derek Walpole	Co-opted	April 2020
Richard Nolan	Co-opted	April 2020

Appendix 1

BAWB Schools Governors' Attendance record for April - July 2016

Governor

FGB (4)

Ex-FGB (1)

Governor	FGB (4)	Ex-FGB (1)
Charlotte Harper	100%	100%
Eleanor Harrison	100%	100%
Di Clegg	75%	100%
MaryRose Kearney	75%	100%
Heather Hodgson	75%	100%
Marysia Holubecki-France	25%	0%
Georgina Pickard-Sparne	75%	100%
Cathy Bergs	75%	100%
Aaron Davis	100%	100%
Martin Garside	75%	100%
Derek Walpole	100%	100%
Richard Nolan	100%	100%

Key

FGB Full Governing Board meeting

Ex-FGB Extraordinary Full Governing Board meeting

