



**Moorlands Schools Federation
Governing Body**

**Annual Report
2015-16**

What you need to know at a glance:

- *Celebration of the achievements of our children*
- *Reflection on the Federation's development and achievements*
- *Welcomes and goodbyes to valued members of staff*
- *Reflection on the year's learning, including a look at our non-class-based learning activities*
- *Feedback from the Parent Questionnaire*
- *Thank yous for our wider community*
- *What is next for the Federation*

As the school year draws to an end, it is the time for the Governors to stop and reflect on what life has brought us since September, and look ahead to what next year will bring. Continuing what is becoming a current theme, this report sees a change of format from those of previous years, as we move to focussing all our work on the key themes of our vision, ethos and ambitions for the future of the Federation. Your feedback on this is very welcome to inform the format of the report for next year.

Learning To Be The Best We Can Be



Another fantastic year at Moorlands has seen our children commit themselves to their learning with passion and demonstrate resilience beyond our expectations. Our new reception year are really enjoying their time at school and took their first transition week in their stride amazing us all with their independence; our Year 1 children have continued to go from strength to strength adapting to the National Curriculum for the first time and our Year 3 children have, once again, pulled together to demonstrate real pride and responsibility in their first year in Key Stage 2.

Children in Years 2 and 6 have faced the challenges of the new style SATs with commitment, a real sense of enquiry and (mostly!) smiles, once again, delivering work identified by our external moderators as one of the best in the area. And our year 4, 5 and 6 children showed such incredible adaptability as they bore the brunt of our increased pupil numbers and took a mid-year change in class organisation in their stride. Well done to all of our children, you are all true ambassadors of the spirit of Moorlands!

Alongside the children, the Governing Body passionately believe that this aspiration applies to every member of the Moorlands community. We have had a big year of learning and development ourselves as we deepen our shared responsibility for holding the school to account through wider delegation of tasks and more formal opportunities for every governor to create their own link with the wider community. National policy changes and personnel changes on the Governing Body have meant we have had to be adaptable in how we deliver effective Governance, responding to the daily pressures and, in some cases, stepping outside of comfort for the good of the Federation. We all owe a huge thanks to Binky Clark for her fantastic leadership during terms 5 and 6, particularly at short notice.

The staff continue to demonstrate their commitment to their own growth and professional development. We would like to offer our formal congratulations to Miss Ennew on achieving her first Headship. Miss Ennew has delivered invaluable improvements to the quality and consistency of teaching for learning at Moorlands since her initial appointment in January 2013, and we are hugely grateful for her contribution to our community. Miss Swinburn is a shining example of a teacher who joined Moorlands at a difficult time, facing some tough challenges, and yet always delivered for our school community with that wide smile on her face: we wish her the very best for her new life in Devon. Mr Gervin and Mr Pipe have also been great role models for our children in their time at Moorlands and we know that they will be moving on to greater things in the next stages of their careers, whilst still being sadly missed (particularly on Sports Day!)

Alongside those who have decided it is time to take the next steps, all of our staff this year have thrown themselves into the curriculum, new assessment processes, new SATs procedures, their own

professional development, Achievement for All, PREVENT training on safeguarding, and many others with huge dedication. Now is also a good time to acknowledge staff who recently chose not to join with a teacher strike day because they felt the timing would cause detriment to the children, demonstrating their commitment to the values we expect the children to uphold at Moorlands.

We hugely appreciate our parent/carer community also, for all you do to help our children grow into the inquisitive, passionate, resilient learners that come to school every day. They truly embody the spirit of learning to be the best they can be – meeting their challenges head on, being willing to take the risk and try again and stand tall with pride when they know they've achieved their very best. The building blocks will stand firm for them as they grow through their education and into their lives



Great Learning, Great Teaching, Great Fun

The school's drive to improve the consistency of the quality of teaching and learning across the Federation is now being felt across the community and we were delighted that in the responses to our recent questionnaire, we received only complimentary comments about our provision in this area. Governors take very seriously our responsibility for holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and it is testament to the commitment of our leaders and staff that we draw this year to a close with all teaching provision across the Federation being assessed as "at least good" with some outstanding teaching taking place.

But we also know that the Great Fun is important too – children need to be happy and engaged to be able to learn and probe to deepen their understanding. A recent report to the Governing Body highlighted a huge list of non-classroom based learning activity that has taken place this year, and we wanted to share a small portion of this with you, as it is unlikely you will have experienced all of these this year.

- Various assemblies throughout the year led by external representatives from, for example, Bath Rugby, Sustrans, Bath Library and to mark key events, for example our moving Remembrance Day assembly.
- PTA events, including Great Moorlands Bake Off, our Literature Festival and production of the Moorlands Anthology, our Festival and Camp Out, Quiz Night and our hugely popular Bedtime Story session for our infant children
- Involvement for all years with Sustrans Project including classroom activities
- Female Friday, Father's Friday
- Enterprise Fayre
- Primary Maths Challenge at Beechen Cliff
- Y5 Languages at Hayesfield plus visit by Hayesfield Languages Dept to Year 3
- World Book Day celebrations
- Year Group Exhibitions
- Parent Workshops to support learning at home

- Dance Umbrella
- Various staff led clubs including Makaton, photography, knitting and sports
- Sing As One
- The Bath Primary Arts Festival workshops and performance at the Forum
- School orchestra playing at Bath Abbey Christmas Concert and Midsomer Festival at Pavillion; various music workshops
- Sporting events, including BANES competitions in athletics, gymnastics, cricket, tag rugby and netball, and our own Sports Day



We would like to highlight a couple of these events to make sure thanks are given in the right places. Firstly, to Mrs Sarah Walker, Mrs Jane Smith and Mrs Kath North for their commitment and passion for the developing orchestra at Moorlands – in the 18 months since they formed, the orchestra have gone from strength to strength and are presenting these children with some fantastic opportunities to perform and share their musical learning and talents with our wider community.

Secondly, the Governing Body would like to congratulate all of those involved in the Enterprise Fayre that was held on 17 June. It was a huge success, wonderful to see the children so enthused by the challenge and we are sure you would all agree the range of games, stalls and activities on offer demonstrated some real creativity. Congratulations from the Governing Body to Y1 for achieving the highest profit (and longest queues!) – we were very impressed to learn you had successfully approached the Bath Theatre Royal for a donation to your Tombola stall.

And lastly, our on-going thanks to the ladies and gentlemen of our PTA. It has been a difficult year for them, but their work truly does deliver some real enhancements to our children’s learning and, without a doubt, their future memories of their time at Moorlands. The Bake Off, the Camp Out and the fantastic Literacy Festival are real stand out and unique events at Moorlands and without this team, these couldn’t be delivered.



Always improving outcomes, high quality education that ensures every child matters

The Governors are continually grateful for the professionalism of our staff team as they continue to deliver learning in a changing and challenging education landscape. You may well have seen all the recent press coverage about the new SATs, scrapping of the EYFS baseline and, of course, the publication of the Government's Education White Paper which sets out a huge amount of change for teachers in the near future. It is undoubtedly a testament to their skill and commitment that our children have, once again, delivered results in formal tests that rival all our neighbouring schools. We would like to highlight the work of our Year 6 team who have had their Writing assessments and procedures described as robust, consistent, of a high quality and "impressive in some cases" by our External Moderators – thank you to everyone involved in the journey to that achievement.



The Governing Body remain excited by the School Improvement opportunities that are becoming available to us as we strengthen our links with The Partnership Trust and are looking forward to welcoming their school improvement team to Moorlands in September. The Trust continue to demonstrate their commitment to Moorlands as they press the urgency of finalising the terms of our lease with the Local Authority, to ensure we can convert at the earliest opportunity. We are really grateful to the community for your on-going support and understanding as the conversion has taken longer than anyone could have foreseen.

The reputation of Moorlands in the wider community is going from strength to strength as our practice is repeatedly used as examples to other neighbouring schools of something to aspire towards. We have recently been commended on our response to the increasing demand for provision for children with English as Additional Language by the LA Head of Education Improvement. In addition to that, you, our parent community, are obviously doing a great job of sharing your positive experiences with your peers as our applications are increasing. And our Governance has also recently been recognised as our Chair, Ruth Balch has recently been appointed as a National Leader of Governance, 1 of only 2 in B&NES. This will enable us to further develop our networks for learning from Best Practice and we are very excited about the opportunity this presents for the whole Federation.

We also have to welcome 3 new members of staff to the Moorlands family for September: Miss Theobald, Mr Forbes and Miss Edwards. They bring further strength and depth to our squad as we continue to move along our journey beyond Good.



Thank you to every single member of our community for everything you have done this year to contribute to the growth of Moorlands. You all make a huge difference, even if you may not know how. Our specific thanks go to our staff – our Leaders have continued to drive forward with improving the outcomes for our children; our teachers and learning support assistants have delivered in the classroom; our facilities team continue to amaze us with their continued ingenuity in solving problems on our large and aging site with a very limited budget; to the Trust for their support in our conversion process; our office team who have all really stepped up to the mark since Fiona Bedding left us in December, running at “one man down” ever since while we wait for the final conversion to come through; to our Governors for their great humour and team work this year as they come to terms with the increased expectations of Governance; to our never-tiring Head Teacher for continuing to hold the reins to ensure Moorlands achieves its best and, of course, to our children for always making our workday enjoyable, challenging, inspiring and fun!

We wish you all a happy and relaxing holiday period, and look forward to seeing you on Friday 2 September.