



**THE BRIDGE
FEDERATION**
BUILT ON CHRISTIAN VALUES



SALEHURST CHURCH OF ENGLAND & STAPLECROSS METHODIST PRIMARY SCHOOLS

✠ 'Learning with God at our side' ✠

The Bridge Federation Governing Board Newsletter – December 2018

Message from The Chair of Governors, Mrs Gill Atkinson



Welcome to the first newsletter from The Bridge Federation Governing Board.

Two years ago the governing bodies of both schools decided to collaborate with an aim to federating. Thanks to the commitment of staff and governors, in September this year, we achieved our aim.

The governing bodies have now become one and are working together for the benefit of our federation. We have now completed our first round of monitoring visits where governors worked with the subject leaders, such as Maths, Literacy and Science etc. from both schools. It proved to be a very positive opportunity for collaboration where subject leaders were able to share expertise and support each other.

There is no doubt that the two schools working together makes both stronger; and can only serve to benefit our children. Throughout the year there will be further opportunities for children to work together and for collaboration between staff.

Thank you so much for your support whether it is attending social events, working with children in school or giving your backing to staff and governors.

Our aim now is to build on what has gone before and through a shared Christian ethos and passion for education, to give our children the best possible opportunities to develop and grow as learners and as future citizens.

'Thought' of the season from Reverend Annette Hawkins



I expect that like me this is just about the busiest time of the year for you. It is still my favourite time of year though - despite the endless lists and frenzied present buying, the house to decorate, the cards to write, the cooking to plan and then to do!

In my case there will be many Carol Services and Nativities to take and to go to as well, and I expect each one will still bring a tear to my eye, especially the ones starring my grandchildren (who will be the stars to me, even if they are humble sheep or suchlike).

Of course this season is meant to be quite the opposite of busy. Advent in the church year is supposed to be a time of expectant contemplation. Fat chance, I hear you cry! Nevertheless, I do encourage you to try take some time out of all the busyness if at all possible and whenever you can. We all need time to rest and recuperate, time to recharge our batteries so that we can really enjoy the festive season and not collapse in a heap as soon as Christmas dinner is served.



We need time too, to reflect on the passing of another year and for Christians on what it means to remember, especially in these times of uncertainty and conflict that, Jesus came to bring us hope and peace. I leave you with the words of my favourite Christmas blessing:

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Mary and Joseph and peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas.

[Next time the season's 'thought' will be from Reverend Ian Pruden](#)

Governor vacancies

There are currently vacancies for two Parent Governors – we would love to hear from you if you are interested in finding out more about becoming a governor (please see the contact details at the end of the newsletter).



What is in it for you for being a governor?

Phillipa Burton is a co-opted governor for our Federation and is also link governor for Mental Health and Wellbeing, along with governor training.

'Being a Governor is so rewarding, supporting our local primary schools and their communities is so important to me. Our youngest members of the community deserve a strong and positive education experience, being part of that journey is amazing. It isn't something I had done before and I was very nervous before joining the board, however I have learnt so much since joining. It is about being a productive, critical friend to the schools and supporting or challenging ourselves to strive for best practice and fantastic results. We have such amazing staff and volunteers at our schools and it is a privilege to work alongside them in a governor capacity. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to be more involved in your community.'

Getting to know your governors



We would like to introduce you to a governor with each newsletter, this time please meet Mrs Jennifer Winnington

– who is based at Staplecross Methodist Primary School. Jennifer is a Methodist Church Local Preacher and monitors the Bridge Federation safeguarding procedures for us, she is also the Chair of the Governing Board's Worship and Ethos Committee.

As the Safeguarding Governor for both schools Jennifer supports the Leadership teams in complying with East Sussex and National Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.

Jennifer also monitors the safeguarding practices in both schools. Jennifer is available to discuss any staff or parents' concerns whenever necessary.

The Worship and Ethos committee meet to support the Christian Ethos of both schools, and is made up of both Anglican and Methodist ordained ministers and appropriate lay persons. We have a common aim to maintain strong Christian Ethos and Worship, while recognising the strengths of the individual schools through their Anglican or Methodist Foundations.

Governing Board Members

Name	Governor Type and Governor Role	Governor / School Links
Mrs Gill Atkinson	Chair of Governors Co-opted Governor	Early Years Literacy & Maths

		<i>Pupil Premium</i>
Mrs Nicola Stephenson	Vice Chair of Governors Co-opted Governor	<i>Science</i> <i>Extended School Provision</i> <i>Health & Safety</i>
Mrs Liz Avard	Ex-officio Governor	<i>Federation Executive Headteacher</i>
Mrs Jo Meeds	Co-opted Governor	<i>Head of School at Staplecross</i>
Mrs Kate Robertson	Co-opted Governor	<i>Deputy Headteacher at Salehurst</i>
Reverend Ian Pruden	Foundation Governor	<i>SIAMS/RE</i>
Reverend Annette Hawkins	Foundation Governor	<i>SIAMS/RE</i>
Mrs Phillipa Burton	Co-opted Governor	<i>Healthy Lifestyles</i> <i>Sport</i> <i>Governor Training</i>
Mrs Jennifer Winnington	Foundation Governor Chair of Worship and Ethos Committee.	<i>Safeguarding</i> <i>SIAMS/RE</i>
Mrs Hayley Sharp	Co-opted Governor Chair of Teaching & Learning Governing Committee	<i>SEND</i>
Mr Roger Cowap	Foundation Governor Chair of Strategic Organisation Governing Committee	<i>Finance</i> <i>SIAMS/RE</i>
Mrs Anna Eastwood	Co-opted Governor	<i>Eco-Governor</i>
Mr Joe Milner	Co-opted Governor	<i>ICT/GDPR</i>
Mrs Jackie Buckingham	Staff Governor	<i>Federation School Business Manager</i> <i>Governor Website / Newsletter</i> <i>Community Cohesion</i>
VACANCY	Parent Governor	
VACANCY	Parent Governor	
Mrs Sarah Wilkinson	Clerk to Governors	

To help you identify The Bridge Federation Governors, you will see named photographs on the website governors' page – here is the link: <http://www.thebridgefederation.org/portal>

[Governor contact details](#)

If you would like to contact the Governors please feel free to talk to a governor in school or you can send an email to the Chair of Governors, as follows:

Gill Atkinson - gatkinson@salehurst.e-sussex.sch.uk