**BLUE SKIES FEDERATION**

**GOVERNOR STATEMENT 2020-21**

As the Governing Board of Blue Skies Federation, we are proud of the achievements in our schools this year, particularly the hard work of our teaching staff and students, making our school a welcoming and enjoyable place to learn. Despite Covid -19 our schools have continued to provide for all our children the very best education we were able to deliver both in school and remotely. We have been working alongside Dunn Street Primary in a soft federation arrangement since September 2019. We are delighted that they have become a part Blue Skies Federation in September 2021.

The Governing Board of Blue Skies Federation works with the Executive head teacher, heads of school and all staff to promote and maintain high standards of educational achievement. The core functions of the Governing Board are:

* Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
* Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance of staff;
* Overseeing the financial performance of the school, making sure its funding is well spent.

**OUR WORK DURING 2020-21**

The Governing Board have supported the schools through the addition of another school joining the Blue Skies Federation, a staffing restructure in Whitburn Primary, recruiting new teaching assistants in both schools and a family support worker These successful processes all carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Governing Board continue to support the leadership team in monitoring the School Development Plans (SDP)

We have supported the leadership team to show impact in the key priorities of improving pupil outcomes, attendance and supporting teaching and learning.

Governors have been unable due to Covid -19 restrictions to undertake regular visits to the school but have successfully kept updated with staff and the children utilising Google classroom, Zoom and Microsoft Teams

Members of the Governing Board have kept their skills up to date by attending on line training in various subjects provided by the LA

**TEACHING & LEARNING**

There have been considerable changes to staffing at both schools. Staff old and new though have been phenomenal during the recent pandemic and ensured throughout that the children and family’s needs were met as successfully as was possible.

With regards to learning

* the curriculums are providing greater challenge to students;
* Teachers have worked to share ideas and skills with the teachers of our federation.
* lessons are well planned and marking has been reviewed to ensure pupil understanding and motivation is maximised;
* Teaching is outstanding and good progress is being made by all children in school
* Teachers have been given the opportunities of relevant CPD

**POLICIES**

Policies are regularly reviewed and new policies introduces where appropriate. These can be found on our school website.

**SAFETY & BEHAVIOUR**

Safeguarding is vital to our school and the staff and governors ensure all procedures are up to date and monitored. Pupil understanding of bullying and E-Safety are regularly updated including who to contact in case of any issue.

**FINANCE**

The governors have worked alongside the Senior Leaders to ensure money is well spent especially in the context of falling revenue from Central Government.

**MAIN PRIORITIES FOR 2021-22**

* Ensure all gaps in learning in phonics skills are closed
* Ensure the reading process supports and enhances the children’s writing
* Children’s writing stamina is improved
* Children’s fluency in maths is prioritised and children regain the fluency they had before Covid-19
* To continue to embed the wider curriculum and the children’s opportunities for experiential learning
* To continue to ensure attendance is above national average
* To ensure good value for money

John Anglin Alison Burden

Chair of Governors Executive Head Teacher