



The Federation of Burley and Sopley Primary Schools



Update from the Governing Body	Contents: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Leadership and Staffing2. Inspection and Reports3. The Work of the Governing Body<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Areas covered over the last term• Pupil survey results• Sustainability and the National Funding Formula• Governing Body Priorities for the future	April 2017
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Leadership and Staffing

Congratulations to Mrs Alison Timmings (Acting Head of School - Sopley) who has been successful in her application to take on the role of Headteacher at Burton Primary School. Alison will be leaving Sopley at the end of next term to take up her new post from September 2017, we thank her for all she has done as our interim Head of School at Sopley and wish her every success in her new role.

The recruitment of a permanent Head of School at Sopley is already underway for a start date of September 2017 - we will keep you informed.

The spring term has seen the staff teams across both schools working together on moderation of teacher assessments and safeguarding systems.

Staff appointments

Burley School have welcomed; Ms Jessica Leyland and Mrs Elizabeth Wilson to cover Mrs Shutler's maternity leave.

Many of you will have heard already that Mrs Shutler has had a bonny baby girl, Maddie - mother and baby are doing well.

Governing body membership

Sadly, we have said goodbye to two members of our governing body: Carina Arnold (Burley parent) stood down as a governor due to family commitments and Barbara Pope (former Sopley Governor) is pursuing further study for an MA in Social Science. We thank Carina and Barbara for all that they contributed and wish them well for the future.

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We are delighted to announce that Rory Watts (Burley parent) has joined the governing body team and is part of the Finance & Resources Committee and contributes to our Sustainability Group. However, this still leaves a vacancy and we are also anticipating the imminent retirement of another governor, so

**Could you, or someone you know, make a difference
for the children in Burley and Sopley Primary Schools?**

**We currently have vacancies for enthusiastic
and committed volunteers to join our governing body.**

A full induction, training and support programme is offered so a commitment to learning and time to carry out the role are as important as existing skills. If you would like to have an informal chat to find out more then please leave your contact details at either school office and we will give you a call.

Inspection and Monitoring Reports

Ofsted

Congratulations to everyone at Burley School - the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection is that the school was judged to be 'Good'. This is a real achievement in the light of an inspection framework which has become increasingly rigorous over the years and ever higher expectations of schools. A couple of highlights as shown below and the full report, which is published in the form of a letter from the inspector, is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/115870>

"Pupils enjoy their learning and have very positive attitudes to one another and to the adults around them. They cooperate very well together to discuss their learning and help one another to be successful. Pupils genuinely get on well together. Through discussion in a sensible and mature way, they take responsibility for their own learning and progress."

"Pupils' mature attitudes and strong sense of belonging were evident and clearly expressed during our discussion. As one eloquently articulated their view by saying: 'It is a small community, and you get to know everyone really quickly. There are friends wherever you look!' "

Local Authority

Sopley and Burley schools have each been visited by our Leadership and Learning Partner - good progress is being made in both schools against our current improvement priorities.

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At Sopley there is currently a focus on improving standards in Maths and Burley is focusing on the effective integration and development of the new members of the team.

Burley has also had a subject inspection by the Hampshire RE Team who monitored the teaching of RE across the school - they found good evidence of the children's learning in RE which follows the Hampshire 'Living Difference' syllabus.

The Work of the Governing Body

This is a summary of the areas covered over the last term by the governing body:-

- ❖ Monitoring outcomes for pupils - including those from more vulnerable groups, ethos and values and other areas of the school improvement plan
- ❖ Financial forecasting, monitoring of budget plans and planning for sustainability
- ❖ Pupil survey and analysis of results
- ❖ Policy reviews with a focus on aligning practice across the federation
<http://www.sopleyprimaryschool.org/federation/federation-policies/>
- ❖ Updating the information on our school websites
- ❖ Termly audit of Health and Safety arrangements
- ❖ Ongoing refinement of safeguarding arrangement to ensure consistent good practice across the federation
- ❖ Recruitment of new staff
- ❖ Review of staffing structure, performance management and pay determinations
- ❖ Audit of the effectiveness of school performance management systems
- ❖ Governing body membership, organisation, training and development

Further information about some of the key areas is outlined below.

Attendance and reporting a child's absence

Making sure that your children are safe is at the heart of everything we do - knowing where they are if they are not in school is a key part of the safeguarding framework. If your child is not in school, for whatever reason, then it is extremely important that you notify the school by 9.30am on the first day of absence. Any absences about which you have notice can be logged with the office staff as soon as you know about them e.g. medical appointments.

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The full **Absence Reporting Procedure** for parents is available from both school websites via the Federation Policies page <http://www.sopleyprimaryschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/17.02.17-Federation-Absence-Reporting-Procedure-for-Parents.pdf>

The attendance rates are currently 96% at Burley and 95.4% at Sopley. The national average and expected level of attendance is 95.8%.

We would like to thank all parents for their continued support in ensuring your children are at school. A high level of attendance is so important and essential for our children to benefit from their education. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less. It is vital that your child is at school, on time, every day school is open, unless the reason for their absence is unavoidable.

Governor monitoring - ethos and values

When the federation was formed, the governors were clear that each school should retain their own character, ethos and values whilst working to share good practice and align systems where this would help.

The governors have been visiting both schools as part of getting to know them better and to monitor the school values and ethos in action. This has also been set against the background of a current review of the behaviour and anti-bullying policies and feedback through the pupil interviews.

The overall picture shows that the schools have strong and broadly similar values which the children understand and reflect in their behaviours. Children were articulate and clear in their discussions with governors and observations of children around the schools (during class and break times) give a consistent picture over time of children behaving well.

The children know each other and they know that they should be kind to each other - they are clear about expectations and consequence of making poor choices. Pupils themselves have high expectations about the behavior of others; they are quick to point out when they believe that others are not making the right choice. Consistently 'getting it right' themselves is a challenge for all children (and adults!) but some find this more

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difficult than others. Helping children to learn to treat others as they would wish to be treated themselves is a fundamental part of the culture of respect in both schools.

Pupil survey results

Children at Sopley are always highly enthusiastic about the educational trips to support their learning and many of them comment on this in the surveys.

Thank you very much to the parents who continue to support the trips by making voluntary contributions as requested. The level of financial support provided by parents ensures that the school can continue to offer these experiences to the children.

Sopley School Pupil Survey Results 2016		112 children - some children did not answer every question		
		Yes	No	Not Sure
I like school.		91	14	17
I learn a lot at school.		100	0	12
I get help at school to do my best work.		77	14	19
a. Do you use target cards?	<i>excluding YR</i>	75	11	7
b. Are they useful?	<i>excluding YR</i>	66	8	10
I know I am doing well at school.		95	3	14
Adults /grown-ups tell me how to improve my school work.		102	2	7
I think my teachers are good.		107	0	4
My teachers help me to get better at: Reading		90	12	9
My teachers help me to get better at: Writing		104	5	3
My teachers help me to get better at: Maths		96	10	3
My teachers help me to get better at: Speaking & Listening in class		102	3	4
Behaviour is good in my school.		75	9	27
Behaviour is good in my lessons.		82	10	20
Children in my school are kind to each other.		85	6	20
I feel safe in school.		98	1	12
I can talk to an adult/grown up in school if I have a problem.		105	2	5
Adults /grown- ups in this school are interested in my ideas.		99	3	10
I know how to stay safe when using a computer.		99	6	5
Adults/grown- ups in my school treat children fairly.		104	0	7
Children in my school treat each other fairly.		74	9	26
I know how to stay healthy.		110	0	2
There is also the opportunity for children to share comments and give examples - individual surveys are shared with class teachers to follow up as needed.				

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Pupil surveys at Burley are reaching completion - we will analyse and publish the results in the summer term update.

Sustainability

Thank you to all those who took the time to write to their MP. The Department for Education consultation has now closed and we will report back as we learn more.

Regardless of the outcome of the formula all schools are facing funding pressure due to the rising costs of running safe and effective provision to the expected standards. The governing body continues to work on sustainability planning for our schools and will keep you informed of progress and key decisions. Like many schools, we are having to think very creatively to ensure that we do a good job for our children within the current constraints. We know that there is great commitment and resilience within our communities; being able to draw on the support of our school communities will be an important factor in meeting the challenges that lie ahead.

Priorities for the coming term:

- ❖ Making a permanent appointment to the Head of School position at Sopley School
- ❖ Ensuring that new staff are effectively integrated and the ongoing development of consistency in teaching and learning
- ❖ Continuing to establish effective governance practices to help drive school improvement
- ❖ Monitoring and evaluating of our improvement plan and the areas set out in our annual programme of activity
- ❖ Ongoing refinement of safeguarding arrangements to ensure consistent practice across the federation
- ❖ Finalising budget plans for both schools for the next financial cycle and a 3-year plan
- ❖ Developing sustainability across the federation

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support. We welcome any feedback about the schools, and you can share your views by speaking to any of the governors or by contacting the clerk to the governors, Liz Holroyd, who works in the school office at Sopley on 01425 672343 or by email at adminoffice@sopley.hants.sch.uk

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