

Format of the Governing Body

As part of Alston Moor Federation, our Governing Body covers Alston Primary School, Nenthead Primary School and Samuel King's Secondary School.

Our Governors provide strategic leadership and accountability within the Federation in which the role of the governing board is to support the headteacher and staff by positively promoting the work of the Federation, celebrating its achievements and working to ensure the best outcomes for all of the pupils.

In the Governance Handbook, which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>, it is stated that all boards, regardless of the type of school or how many schools they govern, have three, fundamental, core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the Federation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the Federation and making sure money is well spent.

Our Governors have a range of skills, talents and experience and are united by our commitment to do our best for the Federation. We make our decisions as a team and share responsibility for those decisions. We are made up of 12 Governors; 2 Parent Governors, 1 LA Governor, 5 Co-opted Governors, 2 Partnership Governors, 1 Staff Governor and 1 Headteacher.

- Parent Governors who have a child in the Federation at the time of their election, and are elected by the parents of children in the Federation
- Local Authority (LA) Governors who are nominated by the local Councillor and appointed by the Governing Body
- Co-opted Governors are appointed on to the Governing Body by the other members because they come from a specialist group, such as the business community or because they possess a particular skill which can contribute to the effective governance and success of the Federation
- Partnership Governors who are appointed by the Governing Body after seeking nominations from parents and others in the community; parents of children within the Federation and staff are exempt from being Partnership Governors
- Staff Governors who are members of staff at the Federation and are elected by their colleagues
- The Headteacher is a member of the Governing Body by right of the position they hold in the school

Some Governors have additional responsibilities – Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Pupil Premium, Looked After Children, Health & Safety, Careers and Whistleblowing. All Governors are linked to varying areas of the Federation for monitoring.

The term of office for all Governors is 4 years (with the exception of the Headteacher). At the end of each Governor's term, their position will be advertised as a vacancy as relevant, depending on their category of governor. The existing governor has a right to stand again (if they remain eligible) or stand-down as per their personal wishes.. The chair and vice-chair and committee chairs are elected annually at the first meeting of the academic year.

The current Chair of Governors is Natalie Hewett and can be contacted on chair@alston.cumbria.sch.uk

To fulfil our core strategic functions we meet a minimum of three times a year as a Full Governing Board and between these meetings, we also have committees which meet on a regular basis.

All meetings are minuted by the Clerk to Governors Ms Natalie Seviour or nominated individual if the clerk cannot attend and can be contacted on clerk@alston.cumbria.sch.uk

Our Governing Body has 3 committees these are:

- Education, Curriculum, Safeguarding and Pastoral needs
- Fabric, Finance, Health and Safety and Personnel
- Strategic – Working Party

Details of the structure of these committees can be found in the relevant sub-section of the Governors Zone.

We are proud to have a team of hard-working governors dedicated to ensuring that all children are provided with the best education they can hope to experience at the Alston Moor Federation.