

Mellers and Nottingham Nursery Federation

Governors' Impact Statement 2022

Nottingham Nursery and Mellers Primary Federation is a unique fusion which will create exceptional provision for the community of Radford. The Federated Governing Body has a vision in which it will break glass ceilings and will be an advocate for all in its care. It will create the very best opportunities for its children, supporting them to achieve their full potential, through the promotion of equality for all, in an atmosphere of trust, honesty and compassion.

The newly federated Governing Body of Nottingham Nursery and Mellers Primary schools came into existence on 1st February 2022. This means that the two previous Governing Bodies were dissolved and the new Governing Body was formed. This document refers to the work of the new governing body since that date and therefore presents the inaugural work done by governors in pulling together the two settings. It was a very large piece of work and it was done on two half day sessions. The governing body will continue to develop as we work together and get to know one another. One of the most significant parts of the work was to develop our vision for the federation which appears at the top of this report and will appear on all governor documents into the future. We were led in this by an external advisor who has worked with the schools on many occasions and what she drew from us was a vision which we all support and adhere to. We were also supported in this significant piece of work by the Local Authority Governor Section. The actual creation of the Federation has been a long and extremely complex process and we thank all those involved for their guidance with it. The Governors in the federation are now excited to move into the first complete year of the federation and are completely committed to making a difference for the community it serves.

The following is a list of some of the activities in which Governors have taken part during the period. It should also be read in conjunction with the documents which were prepared by the chairs of Mellers Primary School and Nottingham Nursery School at the dissolution of both governing bodies. There are also minutes relating to the work of the Shadow Governing Body which operated to facilitate the federation process:

- Participate in governor development work to establish the new governing body and its vision
- Lead the appointment of new senior posts in both settings to establish the efficient working of the schools and the post of Executive Headteacher
- Carry out the first raft of governor monitoring visits to both schools in the summer term including the establishment of a specialist monitoring team for the Nursery.
- Establish the new committee structure and hold initial meetings including the appointment of new chairs of committees
- Agree the Terms of Reference of the new governing body
- Receive the headline end of year data for the Federation
- Receive reports from the School Business Managers, especially with regard to the Nottingham Nursery financial position

- Oversee the new build for the for the Focus Provision for Deaf Pupils at Mellers.
- Continue to monitor the work of both settings whilst establishing a new governing body

The list is not exhaustive but serves to highlight the work to establish the newly federated governing body for Mellers Primary School and the Nottingham Nursery.

So where was the real impact of the work of the Governing Body?

For the purposes of the 22/22 report I would like to highlight 3 main areas where I feel that the governor impact has been the greatest

1. Establishing the Federation and restructuring leadership in order to facilitate true collaboration and raising of standards
2. Ensuring that the Focus Provision is well established and integrated into the curriculum
3. Ensuring that curriculum development and quality first teaching are being delivered in the period of transition to the federation

Establishing the Federation and restructuring leadership in order to facilitate true collaboration and raising of standards

The drawing together of two governing bodies is not an easy task and I would like to thank the members of both for their hard work and thoughtful contributions to the many hours that have gone into the new board's establishment. I feel that, as I write at the beginning of the new year, we are in an excellent place to commence the first full year of the federation. We have used the time to get to know one another, build trust, start to get to know both settings and build our vision for what we want the provision to achieve. As we start the academic year 22/23 I feel that governors now feel confident to support the new leadership team to ensure that we achieve our vision. I would like to thank the LA Governor Section for their guidance with the work. To join two GBs together and appoint a new structure within the space of one term is not an insignificant piece of work and I feel we are now set up to move forward into the new academic year.

Ensuring that the Focus Provision is well established and integrated into the curriculum

As far as establishing the Focus Provision is concerned, governors feel that it is well established and the children are well taught and truly become a part of the school. There is much evidence for this including our specialist governor's visit and report on the provision. When delivering assemblies for example the children are keen to join in and offer contributions freely, a joy to see. Signing has become part of the school and when visiting governors find that its staff feel part of the school.

The building has been more problematic and for that we feel sorry. The accommodation provided was basic and unsuitable. Governors have worked alongside the Head to progress matters but it has been exceptionally hard work. It is hoped that the new build will finally be ready by December 22.

Ensuring that curriculum development and quality first teaching are being delivered in the period of transition to the federation

It has been hard to keep up our monitoring activities at the same time as working towards the transition. The priority was that all governors in the newly formed group would feel able to monitor

and work across both settings. To this end governors formerly from the nursery have been involved in work at Mellers and visits to the Nursery have been carried out by governors who worked mainly at Mellers. This required training and familiarisation visits which will continue to form part of our work this year. It is an ongoing process but we are now ready to take on the new school year and continue the development.

Monitoring for the new governing body took place at the end of May with visits and discussions taking place. Teaching was observed at both settings and governors were pleased to see that the quality of teaching is always a focus and continues to develop and grow through observation, discussion and training.

The Governing Body is divided into 3 working groups each monitoring a different area:

Pupil Progress

Pupils and Curriculum

Finance and General Purposes

Governors visit the school for many different reasons and in doing so monitoring of all areas of the work is an ongoing process. We have a Governors' Blog which is on the school website and it is interesting to read about all the activities that are undertaken by Governors.

Below are the specific areas of the School Improvement Plan which the Governors have monitored last academic year and notes regarding the impact we believe our activities have had.

This is not an exhaustive report of what we feel that the governors have achieved. It has not been a typical year for governors because we have attempted to keep up the monitoring work in both settings whilst establishing a new governing body. The work of the two previous governing bodies was managed very differently and it has taken a lot of planning, building of trust and respect and many hours to build where we are at the end of the academic year 21/22. We are moving into the new year with the passion and commitment to the children of Radford and its community.

Into the coming year we have a specialist early years team of governors who will work in the nursery and governors attached to all curriculum areas of the primary school. We will operate at three committees, as before, with meetings taking place at Mellers and the full governing body meetings taking place at the nursery. We will continue to report to parents through our Governor Blog on Mellers website and a blog will be introduced on the new nursery website.

Lesley Lyon

Chair of Governors September 2022