



2nd December 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I am writing to introduce myself as the school's new Chair of Governors.

My name is Amber Batson and I have been a parent governor for the Langley Fitzurse and Stanton St Quintin Federation for 2 years.

I was born in Tockenham, Wiltshire so have been part of this region's rural community for much of my life. I graduated as a vet in 1999, and have worked in clinical practice both locally and further afield for all of my career. Nowadays I divide my time between working in clinical practice with dogs and cats, whilst also managing my own international animal welfare and behaviour business. I hope that the variety of skills I have developed throughout my career can continue to support Karen Winterburn and both teams in the school communities, as we work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for each and every individual child attending our two schools.

On behalf of the school community I would like to say a huge thanks to our previous Chair of Governors, Ed Shire, for all of his hard work and commitment to the school over the last five years. Ed has been pivotal in developing the two schools as a federation and helping our communities develop and grow. We wish him well for the future.

Before I joined the governing body, I confess I did not know so much about the roles of governors within schools. The last two years have been a fascinating journey into understanding more about how schools' function, and all the challenges that come with juggling available resources whilst striving to fulfil the high expectations we set ourselves when wishing the best for all the children. If you ever have any questions about the role of governors, or the senior leadership teams for either school or the federation in general, you are most welcome to ask.

Being a Chair of Governors is a key role in the leadership and management of the school.

An effective chair will cover the following key areas:

- Working with the headteacher to promote and maintain high standards of educational achievement.
- Ensuring the governing body sets a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school.
- With the governing body, holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and for the performance management of staff.
- Ensuring oversight of the financial performance of the school and effective use of resources.

As governors, we share a common objective with our wider school community to work in partnership with you as parents and caregivers to ensure that every child can succeed and reach their full potential.

To achieve this, and carry out our role as governors effectively, we need to know what issues are important to you (so we remain responsive) and ensure you know what issues Governors are discussing (so that we remain accountable).

Our board of governors work as a team - not a collection of individuals or groups with separate agendas. However much we have variety in our opinions and experiences, we are united by our commitment to the school and the responsibility we share for the success of future generations



You can find more related information on the schools' websites.

Please remember the school website is a good way of keeping up to date with all aspects of school life as well as following our social media pages (currently Facebook).

If you have a concern or point of view to share, please let us know.

We can be contacted via the school Offices or by email:

Langley Fitzurse: admin@lfssq.wilts.sch.uk

Stanton St Quintin: admin@stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk

Chair Of Governors: Chair@lfssq.wilts.sch.uk

Some of you will be new to Langley Fitzurse or Stanton St Quintin, I hope that this will be the start of a long association with us, for you and your children.

Whether new or returning, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support for our schools and look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

Amber Batson, Chair of Governors