



From: The Chair of Governors of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation

25 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the successful Federation of our two schools on 11 January 2021, we have now held the Inaugural meeting of the Single Governing Body of the Bowes Cotherstone Federation (BCF).

The full name in the Instrument of Government is “The Governing Body of Bowes Hutchinson’s Endowed Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School and Cotherstone Primary School”.

Mrs Chris Matthewman has been appointed our Executive Headteacher for both schools, which formalises her previous shared headship appointment. I have been elected as Chair of the BCF Governing Body, after previously holding the post of Chair at Bowes prior to Federation. Mrs Ali Butler, former chair of Cotherstone Primary School, has been elected Vice Chair.

The school websites will shortly be updated with pen pictures of the school staff and the Governors who constitute the Single Governing Body of the BCF.

The Single Governing Body will work closely with the Teaching and Support staff to improve the outcomes and life chances for all children across the Federation. A strong partnership will allow all of these things to develop.

It should be remembered that:

- Our two schools will remain as separate schools, but under the leadership of one Headteacher
- Bowes will retain their School’s Religious character, whilst ensuring that the ethos of Cotherstone school will remain unaffected
- The single Governing Body will be responsible for Governance and staffing in both schools
- Both schools will keep their own names, identity, and uniform
- Both schools will have their own separate budgets
- Both schools will have separate Ofsted inspections

Our vision for the BCF is two distinct schools, each with their own unique character, working together to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our pupils.

We look forward to meeting with you when easing of lockdown restrictions permits.

*Peter Nicholls*

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