

# Welcome to the Governing Board

On behalf of the Governing Board, I am delighted to welcome you to Tas Valley Church Schools' Federation. We are a Federation of two schools - Preston and Saxlingham both of which have their own unique place in the community. I hope through the different features of the website you will gain a real understanding of our schools' and what a special Federation Tas Valley is.



As Chair of the Governing Board, I am very privileged to be part of such a dynamic and forward-thinking board of governors all of whom are dedicated to ensuring the children receive the very best learning experience. I am also fortunate to be working with a professional and dedicated team of staff at both schools' who are guided by an inspirational senior leadership team.

As governors we are proud to be part of the community and are fully committed to working with our Executive Headteacher Mr. Walker, his staff, the children, and parents /carers, to encourage pupils to achieve the very best. Through setting out such a strong vision for the schools', we as a governing board ensure that the children flourish in a safe and well-grounded environment. Fundamental to that success are the Christian values which are at the heart of everything we do.

As you know, all governors are volunteers and our main role is to work with the school to ensure that its children are equipped with the wisdom, knowledge, and skills to embrace and achieve their potential. Working with the school leadership team, the Governing Board has three main core functions which are:

1. Working with a talented group of governors to provide strategic direction for the school and its pupils.
2. Holding the school leadership to account to ensure that your children do the best they can and that all staff are supported and trained, to work with them to 'care, learn, achieve and celebrate'.
3. Making sure the school finances are well spent and targeting resources that best help the children.

To enable us to carry this out, we work with the school leadership team to identify where the school needs to improve. This is set out in the schools' strategic Improvement and Development Plan (SIDP). To achieve this, the board have regular meetings which focus on the strategic aims of the school and monitor the resources necessary to deliver the aims and objectives set out in the SIDP. As a Governing Board, all decisions are taken collegiately.

We as a board visit the school regularly to see for ourselves how well the school is functioning and talk to school staff and pupils. However, you will not be surprised to know that in the last two years this has been achieved virtually rather than face to face. While we still live in uncertain times, I am impressed and delighted at how the schools' have adapted to the 'new normal' maintaining continuity for the children and working to ensure that the quality of learning is maintained.

Our governors come from a range of backgrounds, local and the wider community, which provides a range of skills important to any governing board. Several are parents who will have children at Preston or Saxlingham and two are foundation governors representing the Church values and ethos which underpin our Federation. The different skill sets allow us to effectively support and challenge

leadership as a 'critical friend'. All with the aim of improving the learning experience of the children, including raising attainment and achievement ensuring you child's need are met.

We look forward to welcoming you and your children to our Federation.

Kind regards

**Diane Perry-Yates**  
**Chair of Governors**  
**Tas Valley Church Schools' Federation.**

