

Tibshelf Schools' Federation

Chair of Governors Report 2025



The academic year of 2024-2025 has been a year of challenges and celebrations. At the very start of this report, I want to uphold the continuing hard work of Tibshelf School Federation (TSF) Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Mrs. Rachel Boswell, Mr. Martin Weston and Mrs. Lea Alton and including Mr. Chris Cafferty and Mrs. Megan Ashall.

Their constant focus has been improving the education of Tibshelf children for which governors and the community are grateful. As governors we appreciate the work of all staff; midday supervisors and cooks; clerical support; Teaching Assistants (TA's); caretakers and cleaners; Friends of TSF and Teachers. We have an amazing team, it takes strong leadership and hard work by everyone for our children will achieve their potential.

One of the challenges this academic year was the Town End Junior school OFSTED inspection. As a result of months, if not years of hard work Town End received 'good' in 3 areas and outstanding in the 4th. Everyone gave their all, and the children were a credit to everyone. It was an achievement to really celebrate.

Staff celebrations and challenges have come thick and fast this year. We were thrilled to have Mr Weston join the team. It's hard to think he's only been with us a year, his contribution to the Federation continues to be outstanding. There have been new teachers at both schools, and we recruited several new TA's especially to support our children with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

After many years of dedication as a teacher, deputy head and Head of School at Tibshelf Infants School (TIS) Mrs. Alton is moving onto different challenges and Mrs Banyard will join the SLT as Head of School from September. Mrs. Smith is also moving on from the infants. Several staff have left or returned from maternity leave this year, we are delighted for them. It's a landmark year as Mr Sharp retires, his longevity and commitment to Tibshelf Children has been exceptional, everyone will miss him.

Mrs Boswell works hard to provide the children with the staffing continuity they need, whilst also considering the continuing development of staff expertise. Within tight budget restrictions she continues to provide professional development opportunities in imaginative ways and all staff are developing skills and knowledge to improve our children's outcomes. Two members of staff are engaged in more formal qualifications in leadership and special needs. Its so exciting to see all of this expertise filter down to support our children's learning.

Our premises continue to provide a continued challenge. SLT are creative and have developed new areas of learning identifying from the specific needs of some of our children. TIS especially continues to test us, but fresh coats of paint and sympathetic wall displays lift everyone.

Our negotiations with Derbyshire County Council regarding budgets have been painful this year and continue to be one of our key challenges. However, governors are resolute that our children's education comes first in any conversation with them.

The children with SEN are a source of great celebration for us. They do provide us with challenges- all our children do from time to time, but the expertise we are developing and the provisions we provide are an exceptional achievement. 'Removing barriers to learning' is phrase we hear a lot in the field of SEN and at TSF this year we have gone all out to do that.

Our data results were much improved from last year. Governors scrutinize all the data for the federation and both end of Foundation Stage and Yr 6 SATs showed significant improvements. Whilst data results can vary year to year dependant on the cohort, improvements have been made as a result of staff asking what needed to be changed and doing it. Conscientious professionalism at its best.

Governors have continued to support the school in various ways. We have met consistently through the year as a full governing body and in subcommittees. We held our second market place, sharing with subject leads information regarding curriculum and data. We have contributed to learning walks, attended all interviews for new staff and met with inspectors during the OFSTED Inspectors. Individual governors have written to and petitioned our MPs, met with council representatives in meetings and on school visits, and written to various organisations both formally and informally. The chair of governors attended the leadership conference and has been in touch with Derbyshire Governors association.

Governors attended the inset training at the start of the academic year and have updated both safeguarding and Prevent training. Several governors have attended training relevant to their area of interest.

Mr Ian Collins resigned from Governors earlier this year. Ian's professional knowledge was an asset to the governing body both through his support of the Head Teachers performance management and contributing to the governors strategy. We appreciate Ian's contribution and wish him well.

A particular mention to Chris Cafferty, who supports governors as Clerk with generosity and skill.

Governors are also grateful to the Friends of TSF, whose hard work provide the children with those special experiences so important in their school life. Their quiet but diligent work makes an exceptional contribution.

Along with staff, parents and children TSF governors are proud to be of such a great school community. Its our privilege to be here and play our part.

Karen Waring
Chair Of TSF Governing Body July 2025