



## Governor News

Dear Families

As you know, on 2nd September 2024 Hatfeild and Joseph Hood formally federated as the Cherrywood Federation. Since then we have had an exciting and busy time forming a successful, active governing board which has been working strategically with both schools throughout this term.

### Who Are We

The members of the Cherrywood Governing Body are all volunteers drawn from the staff, parents and the wider community of our two schools.

**Harriet O'Connor** - Co-opted Governor (**Co-Chair of Governors and Chair of the Joseph Hood Finance and Premises Committee**)

**Jenni Lau** - Parent Governor (**Co-Chair of Governors**)

**Daniel White** - Co-opted Governor (**Vice Chair of Governors**)

**Martin Chitty** - Local Authority Governor (**Chair of the Hatfeild Finance and Premises Committee**)

**Amy Shrimpton** - Parent Governor

**Kirstie Blake** - Co-opted Governor

**Liz Brewin** - Co-opted Governor

**Parul Shah** - Co-opted Governor

**Harvey Hands-Heart** - Staff Governor

**Alice Waterman** – Co-Head of School at Hatfeild

**Leanne Newman** – Co-Head of School at Hatfeild

**Libby Wright** - Head of School at Joseph Hood

**Anita Saville** - Executive Headteacher of Cherrywood Federation

Some of us were previously members of the governing bodies at Hatfeild and Joseph Hood and some of us are new to the role. Between us we have a wide range of expertise including in education, finance, health and safety, school governance, safeguarding and business strategy and leadership. We are all passionate about providing a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment and ensuring that we are providing a high quality education for all our pupils. Please do have a look on our school websites for more information about each of our governors. [Click here](#) for Joseph Hood Governors Pages and [click here](#) for Hatfeild Governors pages.

### Governor Recruitment

We also have two vacancies for co-opted governors that we are keen to fill with the right candidates. We are looking for people with legal, HR or marketing skills who come from our wider community. If

you know anyone who you think might be interested in the role, please do let us know and encourage them to get in touch.

### **How do I contact the Governors?**

All Governors are contactable through either school office or via Posey Furnish, one of our Governors' clerks ([governorsclerk@josephhood.merton.sch.uk](mailto:governorsclerk@josephhood.merton.sch.uk)).

### **The Federation Structure**

As they have for the last two years, our two schools will very much retain their own characters and identities, with their own budgets, admissions and Ofsted inspections. However now that we have formally federated, as well as being led by one Executive Headteacher, we now share one Governing Body, although each school has its own sub-committee that focuses on the budget and premises matters. The staff are also successfully sharing expertise and best practice, taking part in joint training opportunities as well as day-to-day communication and support. Working in partnership this way, enables governors and staff to compare, contrast and challenge each other in considering the most effective and efficient ways of continually improving the provision for our children. As governors, we have met regularly to make decisions about school matters and to support and challenge the staff.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Joseph Hood and Hatfeild for their work this term. Each and every one of the team works incredibly hard to ensure that all the children can achieve their best. This includes not only the teachers and teaching assistants who work in the classrooms but also the admin team, premises and catering staff and all the parent volunteers, who all do a fantastic job in ensuring that we can offer such great opportunities to our children. It is a whole team effort! Lastly, thank you for all the support that you as parents and carers have shown to our schools this term.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming Christmas events

With all best wishes for a great holiday season. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Jenni Lau and Harriet O'Connor

Co-Chairs of Governors

On behalf of the Cherrywood Federation Governing Body

<https://www.josephhood.merton.sch.uk/governors/> <https://www.hatfeild.merton.sch.uk/page/?title=Governors&pid=30>