



Governors Annual Statement and Impact Report September 2025 – July 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

The Exe Valley and Moorsway Federation [EVMF] Governing Board's main objective is to ensure that our pupils progress appropriately in their education to become active global citizens. For this to happen, well-led professional and enthusiastic staff support and challenge pupils, working together in a safe, creative and caring environment. Governors appreciate too the roles of parents and carers and their need to be satisfied with the overall leadership and management of the schools and how it affects the safety, learning and well-being of their children. To achieve their objectives, governors must continually evaluate the role they play within the life of the schools and publish relevant information to all interested parties. This statement and report are part of that evaluation and publication process, along with regular reports to parents via the weekly newsletters following our half termly board meetings, parent questionnaires and curriculum reviews.

Our Governing Board is made up of 15 governors. Roles and responsibilities are mapped out at the start of each year and statutory roles are fulfilled. All governors receive training to help them fulfil their lead roles and they derive support from a mentor, the chair and vice chairs. The NGA skills audit is carried out at the start of each year to identify future training needs for governors. You can find out a bit more about each governor by looking at the governor tab on our website, along with information about governor attendance at meetings, any declarations of interest and our board meeting minutes.

Governors play an important part in the strategic leadership of the Exe Valley Moorsway Federation and have collective responsibility for all 10 primary schools all similar in size and ethos in the federation. To enable governors to monitor all 10 schools effectively governors set up three hub home school teams:

- The East Valley Hub combines Silverton, Thorverton and Whimple.
- The West Valley Hub combines Brampford Speke, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Newton St Cyres and Sandford.
- The Moorsway Hub combines Cornwood, Shaugh Prior and The Erme.

Each term governors meet in their school hubs with the Heads of School, discussing Heads reports, looking at data, taking part in curriculum reviews and attending school visits. Statutory Link governors monitor attendance, behaviour, safeguarding and SEND in each of the hub schools reporting back to the main board termly. The systems that have been set up to provide support and challenge to the Executive Principal, EHT's and Heads of School are now robust and effective, and afford time for the leadership team to provide governors with properly considered answers and evidence.

Since January 2025 Leanne Penhallurick has been Acting EHT for the Moorsway Hub. The post was advertised and governors interviewed on 21st October 2025 and have appointed Leanne to this role on a permanent basis.

Charlotte Tofts, tendered her resignation as Head of School at Brampford Speke C of E School, and finished at the end of December 2025. Governors would like to thank Debs Woolacott for stepping into the role of Acting Head until the end of the summer term 2026. Governors interviewed candidates on 24th and 25th March and appointed Lily Nicholls as Head of School from September 2026.

Governors would like to thank John Jolliffe for stepping into the role of head of school at Silverton since the Autumn term 2024. In March 2025 Ofsted visited Silverton and judged the school to be Good in all areas. SIAMS visited in May 2026 and judged Silverton to be living up to its foundation as a church school, enabling pupils and adults to flourish. On 24th and 25th March governors interviewed candidates and appointed Matt Brown as Head of School at Silverton from September 2026.

Emma Newman tendered her resignation as Head of School at Cornwood and MW SENDCO and finished at the end of December 2025. Governors would like to thank Sheevaun Manning who took on the role of acting head from January 2026 until the end of the summer term 2026. Governors interviewed on 21st May and appointed Ellie Aldridge to the post of Interim Head of School at Cornwood for the autumn term.

The process of moving from a Management Committee of Thorverton Pre-school to being Governor led and part of the EVMF has been completed and the pre-school joined the EVMF from 1st January 2026.

Following the federation's involvement in the Diocese of Exeter's Flourishing Partnership and the SIAMS inspection at Brampford Speke, Chris Holding is now the federation's lead for Church School Distinctiveness, supporting church schools as they prepare for SIAMS inspections. All four Church of England schools have been inspected over this past year by SIAMS and were all judged to be living up to their foundation as a Church school, enabling pupils and adults to flourish. All reports are on the school's section of the website.

After nearly 27 years at Whimble School, ten of those as head Carole Shilston has decided to announce her retirement from the end of the summer term. Governors would like to thank Carole and wish her well with her future plans. Governors advertised the post and interviewed candidates on 21st May and appointed Andrew Wootton as Head of School from September 2026.

The Erme school was inspected by Ofsted on 31st March and 1st April 2026. The inspection was led by Donna Briggs, HMI and Suzannah Teagle, Ofsted Inspector. The inspection was supported by the EP, who acted as Nominee for the Executive Head, members of the School Improvement Team and governors. The inspection was conducted in a very considerate way and genuinely followed the Ofsted Inspection Toolkit's principles of 'Celebrate, Validate and Highlight.' The accuracy of self-evaluation by senior leaders and their openness to discussing the school's strengths and development points was appreciated by the inspector, making it a challenging and robust experience, but ultimately one that is going to be helpful in moving the school forward. Safeguarding standards were met and inclusion and personal development were judged to be at the expected standard. The remaining five areas were judged to be in need of attention. This was broadly in line with leaders' self-evaluation, although Early Years everyday practice is stronger than it was during the inspection.

The Management Partnership with South Hams Federation, started on 1st January 2025, has continued to build capacity for school improvement, with senior leaders joining team days and teachers joining year group days during the autumn and spring terms. On Tuesday, 3rd March 2026, the senior leaders from both federations met to co-write a strategic plan for the next five years. With reference to the White Paper and our existing vision and values, we have devised a vision for the future that reflects our near unique position as a large group of schools within the local authority system. We continue to work in an informal partnership with South Hams Federation until 31st March 2027.

The Academy Order for Shaugh Prior has been lifted by the Secretary of State and the consultation process took place for closing the school on 31st August 2026. The Cabinet have finished discussing the proposed closure of Shaugh Prior and it is with sadness Cabinet approved the closure of Shaugh Prior Primary School from 31st August 2026.

Keeping children safe from harm is a key part of the schools' role and the governors continue to work closely with the leadership team to maintain its effective safeguarding. Regular training and monthly updates are delivered to all governors, leaders, staff and volunteers throughout the year as necessary.

Our annual parent survey has now been analysed by governors and we have written a short summary report of the main findings from what you shared with us. The report was sent to all parents on 8th May with the weekly newsletters. While the overall picture is very positive, the survey highlights some areas for development: The federation will continue to build on these strengths while addressing identified areas for improvement, particularly in relation to communication and behaviour.

Governors would like to take this opportunity to thank John Jolliffe, the senior leadership team and all staff for their constant drive to ensure that the children in all our schools across the federation get the best possible education they can and to thank all parents and carers for supporting their children's learning.

Hugh thanks also go to the Parent Teacher Associations in each of our federation schools who help to raise extra money to buy additional resources that our budget cannot stretch to, thank you.

The role of a governor is a complex one, requiring considerable depth of insight into current educational practice as well as an understanding of the wider educational landscape and continuing pressure on budgets. As a governing body we are fortunate in having members who have the right skills, expertise and commitment to fully support the ten schools in the federation. The governors of the EVMF put the learning and well-being of the children in all its

schools at the heart of all they do and will continue to provide appropriate levels of support and respectful challenge to the leadership team in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackie Enright', written in a cursive style.

Jackie Enright, Chair of Governors 30th June 2026