

Co-Chairs' Annual Report 2024-2025

Over this last year our Executive Head, Ruth and the senior leadership team have enjoyed a relatively stable period, where teachers and staff have been able to consolidate their roles and develop close working relationships. Funding and staffing have been challenging due to increasing costs and fluctuation in numbers of children attending. As always, we endeavour to make sure each school retains its individual nature and connect with their unique local communities. Gill, our deputy head, continues in her role as SEND lead (SENDCo). Together with the whole staff team, Gill has been working successfully with the Local Authority and parents to make sure SEND children get the support they need and deserve.

As last year the governing body remains low on numbers. Though two new governors have joined us, two experienced governors have left. However, we are pleased to say we are in the process of inducting a new prospective governor. Also, there have been expressions of interest from two parents. So, we are hopeful to be well placed in the near future. Our current governors have all worked hard and made great efforts to attend meetings and visit the nurseries. Between them they have a wealth of varied skills that will help to ensure the Governing Body continues to meet its legal responsibilities.

Governors have been diligent in attending the required training this year, including safeguarding, Prevent, SEND and governor induction. Governors are encouraged to access the training provided from the Local Authority, as well as the range of training opportunities available online.

Debbie, who was chair of the Curriculum and Standards group, left the governing body at the end of last term. As an interim Veronica is acting as chair in her place. Ysanne continues to oversee the Management and Resources committee. Governors and staff have reviewed key policies, such as the Single Central Record, Governors Code of Conduct and Health and Safety.

Carolyn continues to regularly meet with the Executive Head to keep the governors informed of any changes, as well as keeping herself informed of any safeguarding issues or incidents. The governing body's role is to hold the headteacher to account. During discussions Carolyn offers support and challenge to Ruth to ensure the teaching, play and learning at CNF is of the highest quality.

Governors have completed visits to the nurseries e.g. SEND provision, monitor the regulatory Single Central Register and look at various aspects of the curriculum.

Once again, we have not been able to ratify the budgets for Colleges and The Fields. The senior leadership team and governors are in contact with the local authority to find a way forward. The LA has set up a series of meetings with us to investigate in detail how we can best work

together to improve our financial situation, starting with The Fields. The first meeting took place on October 13th.

In September 2024 Colleges was inspected by Ofsted. Although we kept our outstanding grade, it was recommended Colleges is re-inspected. This inspection is likely to take place soon. Janey and the SLT are working hard to make sure this inspection, under Ofsted's new framework, has a positive outcome. We are pleased that the report especially praised Colleges nurturing environment, and how well staff promote children's independence.

Carolyn Purser and Veronica Sharpe
Co-Chairs of Governors

October 2025