

The Federation of Gedney Hill CoE and Shepeau Stow Primary Schools



Gedney Hill & Shepeau Stow Primary School

Our vision is to foster a community of lifelong learners who are confident, resilient, and equipped with the necessary skills to thrive in an ever-changing world. We believe in the importance of inclusivity, respect, and mutual understanding, ensuring that our whole community feel a sense of belonging.

Respect—Responsibility—Service—Wisdom—Perseverance

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to you with an update following a number of changes across the Federation over recent weeks.

At Wednesday evening's Governing Board meeting, Julie Barmby stepped down as Chair of Governors and I was elected as the new Chair. Julie will remain a member of the Governing Board and I would like to thank her for the considerable time and commitment she has given to both schools as Chair.

We appreciate that there has been a period of considerable change across both schools and that this will understandably have caused some uncertainty amongst parents, staff and pupils.

We are therefore very pleased to confirm that Robert Bell joins the Federation today as our full-time Interim Executive Headteacher, working across both Gedney Hill and Shepeau Stow.

Robert brings considerable experience in school leadership and improvement. I had the opportunity to meet him as part of the appointment process and came away extremely positive about the experience, approach and leadership he can bring to both schools. His immediate priority will be to work with the leadership teams and staff to provide stability, understand the challenges facing the Federation and ensure that the education, wellbeing and safety of our children remain at the centre of everything we do.

We know there are concerns amongst some parents around behaviour, disruption to learning and the amount of change that both schools have experienced. Robert's appointment gives us experienced, full-time executive leadership and represents an important step forward in bringing greater stability, consistency and direction to both schools.

The Governing Board is working closely with Lincolnshire County Council and other partners to support both schools. There is a significant amount of work underway and we are committed to keeping parents informed as that work progresses.

I will be visiting both schools today and look forward to beginning to get to know both school communities properly.

We recognise that parents will have questions and concerns. Robert needs the opportunity to get into both schools, meet staff and pupils and understand the position for himself, but good communication with parents will be an important part of the work ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of both schools.

Kind regards,

David Paton

Chair of the Board of Governors

Gedney Hill C of E and Shepeau Stow Primary Schools Federation

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Executive Headteacher Mrs A Buddle

Head of School Mrs J Beale