

St Thomas à Becket Church of England Federation

Blackboys C.E. School
School Lane
Blackboys
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 5LL



Framfield C.E. School
The Street
Framfield
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 5NR



**Embracing Change – Rural and Small Schools –
 Self-review Questions for Governing Bodies**

School refers to our Federation Schools

| 1. Quality of Education | Rating | Comments |
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| a. Does the school provide a high-quality sustainable standard of education that is appropriate for the 21 st Century? | A – BB | Blackboys - Our vision promotes an education in which children face the challenges of the 21 st Century with confidence. Expectation has been raised over the academic year. Numbers into the school are fairly consistent and the PAN has regularly been filled, therefore increased to 20, 2 years ago. However, the Admission number is 15 for 2019/20. Work is needed to improve the curriculum and ensure that our vision and the needs of the community is the driving force behind these curriculum changes. |
| | A - FF | Framfield- Ofsted (June 2019) confirmed that the school remains a good one. The school now has a permeant Headteacher who works in a supportive partnership with the Headteacher of Blackboys. The pupil admissions number is 15 and all places were filled in September 2018 and the |

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| | | school is over subscribed for September 2019. The attached Pre-school has an excellent reputation, and this supports our admission numbers. |
| b. What is the whole educational experience of children attending this school? | G – BB | Blackboys - The school is working hard to ensure that it is distinctly Christian underpinned by a theologically sound vision and values. Children are encouraged to “be the best they can be; living life in all its fullness”. This is reinforced through a strong emphasis on children being a positive influence on their community and through an active and healthy lifestyle. |
| | A - FF | Framfield- We want every child to ‘Be the best that they can be’ and to ‘Live Life in all its fullness’ through a vibrant and challenging curriculum. The children achieve high standards and make good progress in literacy and mathematics. The school offers many enriching experiences including access to a wide range of sports (Framfield has the Gold School Games Award) and regular Forest School sessions. The Headteacher has introduced the annual arts festival as part of her vision for achieving and celebrating excellence. |
| c. What progress do pupils make? | A – BB | Blackboys – With a stronger emphasis on active learning, raising expectations and rewarding effort, the school is working hard on improving the progress children make. This is necessary particularly in Writing. Progress is therefore improving, and some year groups have made accelerated progress through 2018/19. As a school we would like to develop the way we |

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| | | <p>communicate progress with parents.</p> <p>Framfield - 2018 KS1 % of pupils reaching exp+ standard for reading is significantly above national.</p> <p>2018 KS1 % of pupils reaching GDS in reading, writing and maths above national and LA.</p> <p>Progress from KS1 to KS2 in reading, writing and maths is broadly in line with LA and national for all groups of pupils.</p> <p>The Headteacher's vision for excellence and her plans for higher levels of pupil engagement in monitoring and assessing their own learning should lead to even better outcomes overtime.</p> |
| d. What was the outcome of your most recent Ofsted and SIAMS inspections? | | Blackboys CEP – Ofsted, Outstanding – SIAMS, Good / Framfield CEP – Ofsted, Good – SIAMS, Good |
| e. What is your prediction for future Ofsted and SIAMS inspections based on your SEF and three-year projected attainment? | | Blackboys CEP – Ofsted, Good – SIAMS, Good /Framfield CEP Ofsted, Good – SIAMS, Good |
| f. What is the condition and suitability of the school's buildings? | G | <p>School buildings are maintained through a planned maintenance schedule with both specialist contractors and the Federation's Caretaker.</p> <p>The schools have made use of the Diocese Capital Fund to replace school roofs, refurbishment of cloakroom and toilet facilities. Additional classroom Capital Fund application at Blackboys CEP under consideration due to increase in PAN thus larger KS2 classes. In addition to PTA/PTFA/Grants funding for</p> |

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| | | resurfacing and remarking of playgrounds. |
| g. How secure are the school's finances? – are you having to set a deficit budget within the next three years? | G | Three-year plans for 19/20 – 20/21 – No, 21/22 (BB Yes) |
| 2. Leadership and Staffing | Rating | Comments |
| a. How easy is it to recruit and retain high quality teaching staff? | G | Good level and quality of applicants for recently advertised teaching posts. Retention as per expectations of teaching staff within small schools with limited promotional opportunities due to flat structures. |
| b. What is your leadership structure, how does it assist your strategy for succession planning? | G | Headteacher in place at each school supported by experienced Subject Leaders. Appropriate CPD and opportunities are given to Subject Leaders to lead within the schools. Previous structure enabled promotion of Heads of School to Acting Heads then a successful application for Headship. |
| c. How long is it likely to be before your current head leaves? What do you expect to happen then? | G | Heads new in post from September 2018. |
| 3. Governance | Rating | Comments |
| a. How many governor vacancies have you got? | A | 2 Foundation Governors (as at September 18) |
| b. How easy is it to find capable governors who have time and skill to give to the school? | A | Previous recruitment of Foundation Governors was successful through local Churches. Good level of response for Parent Governor vacancies at 2018 elections. |
| c. Do governors receive regular training and are they suitably equipped to fulfil all of their responsibilities? | G | Governors attend training, workshops, forums through both East Sussex County Council - Governors Services and the Diocese of Chichester on a wide range of specialist areas. |

| 4. Demographics | Rating | Comments |
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| a. Where do your pupils live? | | <u>Blackboys CEP</u> – 42% Children living in school planning area 14% Children living in wider review area 10% Children living outside review area (Uckfield) 34% Children living outside review area (other) <u>Framfield CEP</u> – 37% Children living in school planning area 18% Children living in wider review area 42% Children living outside review area (Uckfield) 3% Children living outside review area (other) (ESCC Data) |
| b. How many of your pupils live within the village or catchment area of the school? | G | Blackboys CEP – 42% Framfield CEP – 37% (ESCC Data) |
| c. How many school age children live in the village or catchment area of the school but choose to attend other schools instead? | | We do not have this data – in addition no data available on pupils attending Private Education |
| d. What are you projected pupil numbers for the next few years, based on an assessment of local demographics (e.g. new housing that is likely to produce new primary aged children, how many?) | A | Blackboys CEP – 19/20 – 5 20/21 – 5 21/22 – 9 Framfield CEP – 19/20 – 8 20/21 – 11 21/22 – 8 (ESCC Data) (This data does not take into account previous parental choices) |
| 5. Links with Community | Rating | Comments |
| a. What is the school's place within the community – how integrated is the school in the life of the community? | G | Links include St Thomas a Becket Church – Services at Harvest Festival, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter, Services of Thanksgiving attended by pupils, governors and the wider school community. Participation in Holy Cross Church Festival of Trees as a |

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| | | <p>Federation, including singing within the associated local event. Year 6 pupils sing for the local senior citizens clubs. Visits to and letter from pupils sent to the local Nursing Homes of Cooper Beech and Holy Cross Priory. PTA/PTFA events such as fairs, quizzes which include stalls/attendance/participation in by the local and wider community. Involvement through Parish Councillor, Link Governor with Local Parish Council and attendance at local farmers market. Fund raising events for charities that are linked to the experiences/interests of members of the school community. Participation in local inter primary school sporting events run by Uckfield College. Annual inclusion in the Uckfield Festival.</p> |
| b. How are the school's facilities used for/by the community? | G | <p>School Hall and Playground have previously been let for local events as per our Federation's Letting Policy.</p> |
| c. How good are the links with the Church? | G | <p>St Thomas a Becket Church – Services at Harvest Festivals, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter, Services of Thanksgiving. As part of the RE Curriculum visit to the Church and meet the Vicar, Rev Lawrence. Rev Cernick – New Life Church undertakes collective worship on a regularly basis.</p> |
| d. Is the school used for worship/Sunday school/after school clubs/holiday clubs? | G | <p>Christian based clubs run by Rev Cernick and Foundation Governor during term time. Local Sporting Clubs such as Le Tennis and All Stars Soccer offer pupils a Tennis and Football Club after school. A local Chess Club Leader offers pupils a Chess Club either</p> |

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| | | before or after school. In addition to term time club All Stars Soccer offer events held during school holidays for Federation and Non-Federation pupils to attend. |
| 6. Partnership and Collaboration | Rating | Comments |
| a. What collaborative arrangements are already or should be in place? | G | Creation of Federation of our two schools in September 2015 following a successful partnership arrangement from September 2012. |
| b. Has the governing body discussed the challenges and opportunities of such arrangements with HT and staff? | G | Forward Planning Group which includes both Governors and Headteachers. Chair attends Staff Meetings to update and inform staff of relevant opportunities and changes. Feedback on the Federation is given from all staff via annual staff survey. |
| c. Where are the next nearest/surrounding schools and what is their position re numbers/demographics? | | <u>Buxted CEP</u> - 65% Children living in school planning area 15% Children living in wider review area 22% Children living outside review area (Uckfield) 5% Children living outside review area (other) <u>St Marks CEP</u> – 26% Children living in school planning area 35% Children living in wider review area 7% Children living outside review area (Uckfield) 32% Children living outside review area (other) (ESCC Data) |
| d. What are the next steps you need to take to develop effective structural partnerships with other schools? | G | Opportunities available by joining DCAT. Local Federations working more closely together to strength opportunities for joint activities. |