



Annual Review
2021/22

Contents

2	Welcome from our Chair of Trustees
3	Chief Executive & Trust Lead introduction
4	Our purpose, mission, vision and values
5	Our trust in numbers
7	How we work
8	Meet Parent Council members, Amanda & Ida
10	Trust highlights
13	Welcome to our new schools
15	School highlights
24	Financial overview
25	Who's who



Welcome from our Chair of Trustees

ALEX WALMSLEY



I and my fellow trustees are extremely proud of the achievements of our family of schools during this past year.

The Board of Trustees' role is to create a clear vision to help set the ethos and strategic direction of the trust and to challenge and hold to account leaders in terms of educational and financial performance. Our trust believes in working together to provide the best possible education for all and our vision is that everyone will aspire, flourish and achieve within the heart of their community. This Annual Review shows that this has once again been achieved despite the difficult circumstances facing schools in the past year. I am very proud to chair our trust and to work with such a committed team of trustees and governors, as well as with skilled leaders and staff across the trust and at all of our schools.

We have used our individual and collective strengths and experience over the past year to ensure continuing effective educational provision for our pupils during this really challenging period. In terms of governance, we have benefitted from the input of skilled trustees and local hub board members including our parent representatives, as well as our other committees, to provide support across our schools and trust. This helps us to ensure that we use the specific insights of all trustees and committee members to support our performance and future improvement.

The return of Ofsted inspections in the past year has seen our schools continue to achieve positive outcomes and our trust continues to grow and develop for the benefit of all our schools and the wider communities we serve.

None of this could be achieved without our remarkable staff to whom we are truly grateful. One of the real strengths of our trust is the culture of partnership working and collaboration, both within our schools, and outside our trust with other educational colleagues and settings. We are proud to have supported our schools and others during this last year and we remain committed to working with schools who share a similar vision and ethos.

As a supportive and values-driven trust we welcome the opportunity to develop new partnerships and bring new schools into our trust family. We look forward to continuing to provide the best possible education and life chances for all our pupils, working collaboratively and leading in best practice. I hope this Annual Review is useful for showing the wonderful contribution of our schools over the past year.

Chief Executive & Trust Lead's introduction

PAUL WALKER



It is with great pleasure that I am able to introduce this year's Annual Review for the The First Federation Trust.

As ever, life in our trust schools has been very busy and productive, with another successful year drawing to a close. The academic year has worked against the backdrop of the impact of Covid. The year started in what would have been deemed as 'normal'. However, the virus has still been very much with us and impacted our daily work. Over the first half of the year tremendous numbers of staff and pupils contracted the virus, impacting the daily running of our schools. I would like to thank all of our staff for pulling together to reduce the impact of the virus as much as we could. Many people worked above and beyond to ensure we could support our pupils. I would also like to thank you and your children for supporting us so well. The autumn and spring required a lot of flexibility and change often occurred at short notice; thank you for your support.

Despite the virus, we have gradually been able to start to return to our usual school events. Over the year we have managed to perform many real-life productions, welcome you to real fairs and many other events. Fingers crossed we will be able to deliver all the end of year events!

As we returned to full opening, we have also seen several Ofsted inspections. We were delighted to welcome inspectors to Gatehouse, Brixington and Rockbeare this year. And were equally delighted that all of these schools have been awarded a good judgement – testament to a lot of hard work.

Over this year we have been working with and supporting several other schools who were not part of the trust. We are very proud to be recognised as a strong and effective trust. As a result, we have been able to welcome three new schools into the trust family: Portesham, St Budeaux and Whitchurch. Government is encouraging growth of academy trusts. Whilst we are excited to grow and welcome new schools, please be assured this is always carefully considered and will never be at the detriment of our current schools.

It always seems amazing how quickly time passes in schools. As I reflect on the year that is coming to an end I do so with an immense sense of pride. Our school communities are amazing. The staff work so hard for your children. Thank you to everyone who plays their part in making our schools work so well. Thank you to you, as parents for your continued support and finally, thanks to our wonderful pupils for their hard work.

Our purpose

It's why we exist

Working together to provide the best possible education for all

Our mission

It's what we do

Using our individual and collective strengths to work together to improve our schools. Providing all pupils with the best education, enabling them to succeed

Our vision

It's what we'll achieve

Every individual will **aspire**, **flourish** and **achieve** within the heart of their community



Inspiring
learning for all



Developing the
individual and
growing positive
relationships



Contributing positively
to all the communities
we are a part of

Our values

ASPIRE | FLOURISH | ACHIEVE

Our trust in numbers



19 member schools



3,626 pupils



121 pupils with education, health & care plans



524 SEND support pupils



706 pupils eligible for the pupil premium grant



628 staff



27 Federation Leaders of Education



Three Local Leaders of Education



One Local Leader of Governance



How we work

Central to how our trust works is our Board of Trustees. The board monitors and challenges the educational and strategic outcomes of our trust and there are three main committees that support its work. The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the day-to-day running of the trust. The team works alongside our schools to provide challenge and support in order to ensure our schools deliver the best possible education.



Academy Committees

Support schools' work in their local communities.

Hub Advisory Boards

Our Hub Advisory Boards focus in detail on the quality of education in up to six schools. The boards have wider representation from parents and members of the school community.



Meet Parent Council members, Amanda and Ida

Each member school in our family of primary schools has at least one Parent Council member, who is a member of the Hub Advisory Board for the school and also part the parent council group for the trust.

Here we introduce you to Amanda and Ida, who are Parent Council members for Brixington Primary Academy and they tell us a little bit about what they do.



How long have you been a Parent Council member and what attracted you to volunteering your time and skills in this way?

Ida: I became a Parent Council member in November 2019 and volunteered for the role as both my children attend Brixington. When I first started the role, I didn't know much about what it involved, nor had I ever met Amanda, with whom I share the role. All I knew was that this was an opportunity to learn more about the school itself and to play more of an active role in my children's education.

Amanda: I've been a Parent Council member since November 2019 as well. With both my children now in school I was looking to do some voluntary work on the days when I'm not working, so when this role came up it sounded really interesting and a great opportunity to be involved with the school.

What are you working on right now and what do you typically do as Parent Council members?

Ida: The role has evolved from when I first started and you aren't expected to be the voice of all parents, simply the voice of 'a parent'. A typical outline of what we do is to work alongside the school and the trust in a voluntary governance capacity to ask questions, to challenge and help provide accountability from a parent's perspective. We can attend hub board meetings, read reports, and discuss various topics. Mr Dyer (Head of School at Brixington Primary Academy) often invites us to share our ideas and make suggestions on a wide range of subjects such as school clubs, events, etc. We are also members of

“The most important and rewarding part is of course being able to come to school, to meet the children, to talk to them about what they have been doing in school and to see them proudly share their work.”

”

the Academy Committee, where we focus on the links the school has with the wider community, the school ethos and much more. The most important and rewarding part is of course being able to come to school, to meet the children, to talk to them about what they have been doing in school and to see them proudly share their work. A particular highlight this year was meeting the Ofsted inspectors and being able to participate in the inspection.

What have you enjoyed most since you became a Parent Council member?

Amanda: My highlights are really about getting to talk to the children and seeing how the connection between the ideas and plans the school leaders have are reflected back in the way children are learning. During lockdown we met with children virtually and we've now been able to go to the school for visits as well, but every time it's notable how passionate and engaged they are with what they're learning, and how keen they are to share that with us.

Ida: I have enjoyed the school visits the most, even when they were virtual, and meeting the wonderful children who speak very openly with us and share all their thoughts. I have also enjoyed getting to know the fantastic teachers and working alongside Amanda.

What would encourage someone to become a Parent Council member?

Ida: Becoming a Parent Council member does require you to give up your time to attend meetings, do school visits, and read and write reports, but if there are two of you at the same school this time can be split between you. It is an interesting and rewarding role, where you can get involved and feel very much a welcome and valued part of the school community. The trust will provide any necessary training but simply being a parent, who is interested in education and able to volunteer their time, should encourage anyone who is thinking about taking on this role.

Amanda: I would echo Ida's comments around the time and meetings, but it is a really rewarding role. I feel that we've got a really good relationship with the school and have felt heard, and our thoughts and suggestions are valued.



“

My highlights are really about getting to talk to the children and seeing how the connection between the ideas and plans the school leaders have are reflected back in the way children are learning.

”

Trust highlights this academic year

£79,800

invested in staff development*



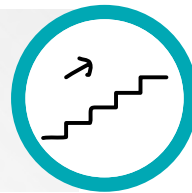
Three

trust schools supported through
their Ofsted inspections



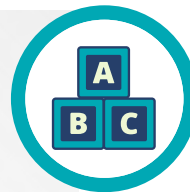
Three

external schools supported with
improvement & leadership



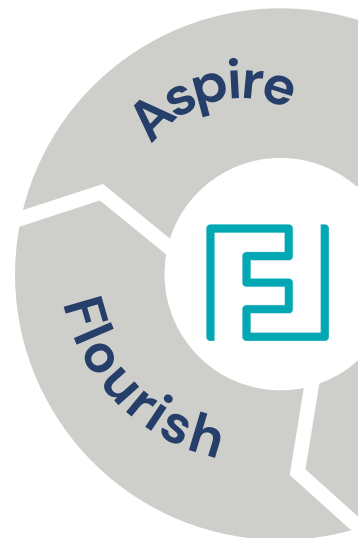
35

new nursery places provided



One

new SEMH** unit





£330,000

invested in school buildings



£30,000

for school libraries & phonics



Two

schools improve to 'good'



Three

new schools join our trust



£98,489

invested in IT infrastructure





Welcome to our new schools

This year we welcomed three new schools to our trust family.

First to join in June was Portesham CE Primary School in West Dorset. Portesham was the 17th primary school to join our trust and our first outside of Devon.



Mrs Prior, Head of School
Portesham CE Primary
School

“

Being a part of the First Federation Trust family will bring a host of benefits to our school, from tailored support in key areas, to staff training and development in subject knowledge and teaching practice. We are really excited about the opportunities for collaboration with colleagues from across the trust family of schools.

For a small school such as ours, the support provided by the trust as we seek to raise standards across the school will be crucial.

”



Next to join our growing family, both of which were welcomed to the trust on 1 July, was St. Budeaux Foundation CE Junior School in Plymouth and Whitchurch Community Primary School in Tavistock. We have been in management partnerships with both schools, providing strategic leadership support and helping to further the quality of education by making available to them the expertise that exists across our trust. We are delighted to now formally welcome them into the trust as full members.



Mrs Lewis, Acting Head
of School
St. Budeaux Foundation
CE Junior School

“ We are excited about joining First Federation Trust and all of the opportunities it will give our school and its community. This collaborative approach has already improved curriculum design and delivery at St. Budeaux and we look forward to developing this further, as we seek to provide the very best learning experiences for all our children ”



Kerry Bargewell,
Head of School



“ We are excited to formally join the First Federation Trust and build on the solid foundation laid during the period of our management partnership. Support from the trust and collaboration with other member schools will enable our wonderful school to go from strength to strength. ”

Member school highlights by hub

Central hub



Chudleigh Knighton CE Primary School

2021/22 highlights

- Brilliant team-work to further embed and develop the school's curriculum.
- Excellent fundraising across the year for multiple charities including raising our highest ever amount for The Poppy Appeal.
- The children enjoyed getting back out into their community, including baking scones for the Jubilee tea party.
- The return of in-person performances & services with parents both in school such as Mothers Day and in the church, for Ash Wednesday and Easter.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- Strengthening our community links as we move into a post/living with Covid world!

“I would like to say a huge thank you and congratulations on a fantastic performance for Mother's Day at the school today. It was fantastic, well done to you all. The children did a fantastic job, we are so proud of them all.”

Parent feedback



GATEHOUSE
Primary Academy

Gatehouse Primary Academy

2021/22 highlights

- The school was a Ukraine appeal drop-off site for the community.
- A new partnership with Edukid -sponsoring a child in Uganda so they can go to school.
- Received a grant of £750 to enhance our forest school.
- Raised £1,448 for charity.
- Supported 14 different Plymouth University Students and three college work experience students.
- Good in all areas Ofsted report.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- Dawlish learning community football league.
- Developing our pond area.
- Links with community food larder.
- 10 tours team.
- Hosting a Computing Kids Conference

“Leaders are determined for every pupil to be successful.”

Ofsted report



Lady Seaward's CE Primary School

2021/22 highlights

- Significant investment in staff development across the curriculum.
- Launched an interactive app across all classes to showcase learning to parents.
- Embedded a new systematic phonics approach across key stage 1.
- Investment in the school library and new gymnastics equipment.
- A wide range of educational trips as part of our curriculum.
- Sponsoring Ryan in Uganda via a wide range of fundraising activities through charity partnership with Edukid.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- Developing the school garden into an outdoor education 'forest school' space.
- Further investment in the school's reading spine so that a bespoke offer of high-quality texts is available to our pupils.
- Members of our support staff will be accessing a NQE 'Raising the impact of Teaching Assistants' programme.

100% of parents either agree or strongly agree that teaching at the school is good.

Recent parent survey



Rockbeare CE Primary School

2021/22 highlights

- Successfully navigated Ofsted and continue to be a 'good' school.
- The school is growing and has opened a fourth class and introduced a new wrap around care provision, the Pelican Club
- The positive introduction of a new phonics programme is proving impactful.
- House Captains have lead charity days across the year raising funds for their chosen charities.
- Hosted a number of community events at the school and church.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- The development of an EYFS Unit (3-5yrs).
- The embedding of a newly identified vision and values.
- Curriculum development for specific foundation subjects.
- The introduction of a forest school curriculum.

“Rockbeare is a welcoming school. Staff value each pupil for their individual qualities. This rubs off onto the pupils, who respect and look after one another.”

Ofsted report



INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

Westcliff Primary Academy

2021/22 highlights

- Opening the Westcliff Community Garden: an interactive space for pupils and the community.
- Installed a community larder having raising over £3,000 to stock and maintain it, providing a range of food and essentials for our families.
- Pupils have benefited from an overt focus on model writing to scaffold and support their writing. New look writing walls help to support the writing process.
- Continue to develop and progress as an Oracy school in partnership with Voice 21.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- Through community links and use of outdoor spaces, we will further develop an inspiring and enriching curriculum.
- Using 'Thinking Matters' approaches to develop pupils' thinking and metacognitive ability within their learning.
- Further develop subject leadership with an emphasis on special educational needs and disabilities pupils across the curriculum.
- Pupil Ambassadors for every subject area.

Both my children feel safe and happy and are given space to grow in confidence.

Parent feedback



Willowbank Primary School

2021/22 highlights

- Holiday clubs held on school grounds providing 20 free spaces for our pupils who most benefit from the provision including a hot lunch.
- After school club implemented.
- Platinum Jubilee tea party for the children.
- Our unique curriculum activities incl. bedtime stories, movie nights, year 4 residential, beach trips, moors trips, swimming lessons, fossil hunting. etc!
- Successfully implemented a new phonics scheme.
- A new pond area and new shed in our forest school garden.
- SEN parent café.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- Continue to fulfil our unique curriculum offer.
- Deliver forest school sessions for parents.
- Deliver parenting workshops.
- Creating an internal resource base for pupils with high levels of social, emotional and mental health needs.

From the moment I first came to see the school it was a friendly and happy setting.

Parent feedback

East hub



Brixington Primary Academy

2021/22 highlights

- Sponsoring a child in Uganda to attend school via our Edukid partnership.
- £600 raised for Devon Air Ambulance.
- Investment in new books and phonics lessons for our youngest pupils (Sounds Write).
- Key stage 2 Christmas Carol service to parents at church. The choir also performed at Manorfest Exmouth.
- Involvement with 'Let Girls Play' led to huge increase in girls playing football in school.
- Good in all areas Ofsted judgement.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- Development of our outdoor learning area.
- Engagement with National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics 'Mastering Number' programme.
- Development as a 'Thinking School' with the organisation Thinking Matters.

“My children have come on loads since they have been going to your school, so thank you so much.”

Parent feedback



Colyton Primary Academy

2021/22 highlights

- Development of the Colyton Curriculum that's progressive and focuses clearly on skills and knowledge.
- Use of S-Maps to help children have a better understanding of their own learning journey.
- Flourish Fridays that included positivity pom-poms and pebbles spread over the town.
- Queen's Jubilee Maypole & Country Dancing event (with cream teas for the community).
- Introduction of Thinking Frames and becoming a Thinking School.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- Embedding all of our new initiatives and curriculum.
- Development of our co-curriculum and personal development.
- Fundraising for some more outdoor equipment.
- Development of maths curriculum using Mastering Number and the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics.

“Pupil conferencing has shown the improvement in the curriculum is improving knowledge and retention.”

Head of School



Hawkchurch CE Primary School

2021/22 highlights

- Key stage 1 Science award from the Electric Theatre for the children's Mary Anning song.
- Queen's Jubilee party for parents and the community.
- Artist for the day – making a sculpture.
- Sing up with Axe Valley Community College.
- Closer links with the church for Harvest, Nativity, Easter, pilgrimage & St John the Baptist Day.
- Very successful PSHE coverage and delivery.
- ICT curriculum enhanced.
- More swimming sessions to meet the needs of the children.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- Visits to different places of worship and having guests on from different faiths for Faith Week.
- Further development of our cross-school sports with trust schools at Musbury and Colyton.
- Development of a pond area to enhance our outdoor provision.

“Children have had a positive attitude to learning this year and learning behaviour have been much improved.”

Head of School



Musbury Primary Academy

2021/22 highlights

- Participation in and creation of mini sports partnership with Hawkchurch and Colyton.
- Step Up and Dance – Dance Workshop.
- Theatre Alibi performance.
- Christmas show.
- Sponsored community walk.
- Involvement with Devon Air Ambulance who installed floodlight on our field.
- Added more non-core time to the curriculum in key stage 2.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- Completion of our outdoor classroom extension – planned for summer holiday 2022.
- Construction of an activity playground
- A new Head of School will start.

“We've been really pleased with our decision to move to Musbury Primary School; our son is like a different child.”

Parent feedback



Sidmouth CE Primary School

2021/22 highlights

- Expanded our nursery provision so we now operate two pre-school classrooms with a total of 79 pupils cared for.
- Three really successful residential.
- Awarded a Resilience Award at the Sidmouth Community Champions ceremony in recognition of our work to support pupils and families during Covid.
- Hopes & Dreams week featured 12 visitors in school speaking about their profession, as well as seven pre-recorded videos.
- Awarded a music kickstarter grant which has given 10 free school meals pupils the opportunity to have violin lessons.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- After a two-year journey to develop our art and music provision, we are hoping to receive the Artsmark Award.
- Re-starting the school football team to play regular matches against local schools.
- Developing a spirituality garden.

“ I have spent 30 years attending sports days and yesterday's was just the best, with both children and adults enjoying it just as much. There was so much variety with all the children actively engaged the whole time - what superb organisation!

Parent feedback



South hub



Aveton Gifford CE Primary School

2021/22 highlights

- Year 4 participated in a six-week sailing programme this term.
- Hosted and won a key stage 2 Netball Tournament.
- Delivered swimming lessons to ALL children across the school in our school pool.
- All years from year 2 – 6 have taken part in a school residential/sleep over experience.
- Key stage 2 beach walk to Bantham Beach.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- Adding to our outdoor adventure space with a trim-trail for all children to access.

“ The school feels like ‘one big family’.

“ The pastoral care is high and the schools nurtures the individual.

“ Children really enjoy coming to school and are excited by their lessons.

Pupil & parent feedback



Bere Alston Primary Academy

2021/22 highlights

- Significant work towards personal development curriculum. This includes teaching/ learning, updating website, new assembly timetable and more.
- Implemented a new approach for writing ('Talk for Writing') which supports our focus on language and vocabulary.
- Our Ethos Group have begun fundraising for the charity Edukid.
- We are now running a popular 'stay and play' session for birth-four years in our newly renovated sensory space.
- Hosting Ability Games for local schools, to promote participation and fun.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- Continue to develop the personal development curriculum.
- Refurbish our pond and fire-pit area.
- Welcoming a new Head of School.

“ This is a school where my child feels they can really be themselves. Since joining the school I have seen my child's personality flourish. ”

“ The grounds are lovely – there are so many exciting outdoor spaces for the children to explore. ”

Parent feedback



Blackpool CE Primary School

2021/22 highlights

- Sponsoring two pupils to attend school in Uganda through the Edukid programme.
- All children have exhibited art in local exhibitions and resident artists have visited the school.
- Participation in local community events that link the church and local people to the school.
- Our very active PTA has continued to raise substantial amounts of money, contributing to play equipment, enrichment days and books.
- Our revised Smart School Council system has provided a successful system for every child to have a voice and be actively engaged in promoting change in our school.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- Developing opportunities for outdoor learning eg forest school and extended grounds.
- Progression to next level of Green Flag through environmental protection projects.
- Application for a DfE funding grant for a Senior Mental Health Lead in the school to develop mental health and well-being of everyone in the school community.



I love our school because the teachers make learning fun and they are always smiling.

Year four pupil



Newton Ferrers CE Primary School

2021/22 highlights

- Building and fully utilising a forest school area incl. a new pond & shelter.
- Community support with our allotment project led by a neighbour of the school.
- Restarting school events such as our school production of the Jungle Book and May Day community event and No Electricity Days.
- Leadership roles for key stage 2 children developed so that all children have an aspect of school life that they contribute to.
- Completion of the first year of our new curriculum with all subject leaders in place.
- New key stage 2 library to promote reading for pleasure.

Exciting plans for 2022/23

- Fundraising for a new trim trail and EYFS outdoor area.
- Restarting local sporting events with other schools through Ivybridge learning community.
- Focus on mental health support and training across the school.



The school is amazing, the staff are equally incredible and it feels like a large family really. I wouldn't want my girls to go anywhere else!

Parent feedback



Salcombe CE Primary School

2021/22 highlights

- Created a new three-year rolling programme of curriculum content that has progressive skills and knowledge-based learning, utilising the coastal area throughout the offer.
- Three night residential for Year 5/6 to give the children an experience of city life. We went on the London Eye, saw The Lion King, rode on the Underground, did a Thames cruise, went to the Science Museum, saw Buckingham Palace, 10 Downing Street, etc.
- Raised £968.04 in total for various charities.
- Year 2 residential (overnight stay at school) to prepare the children to spend longer away higher up the school.

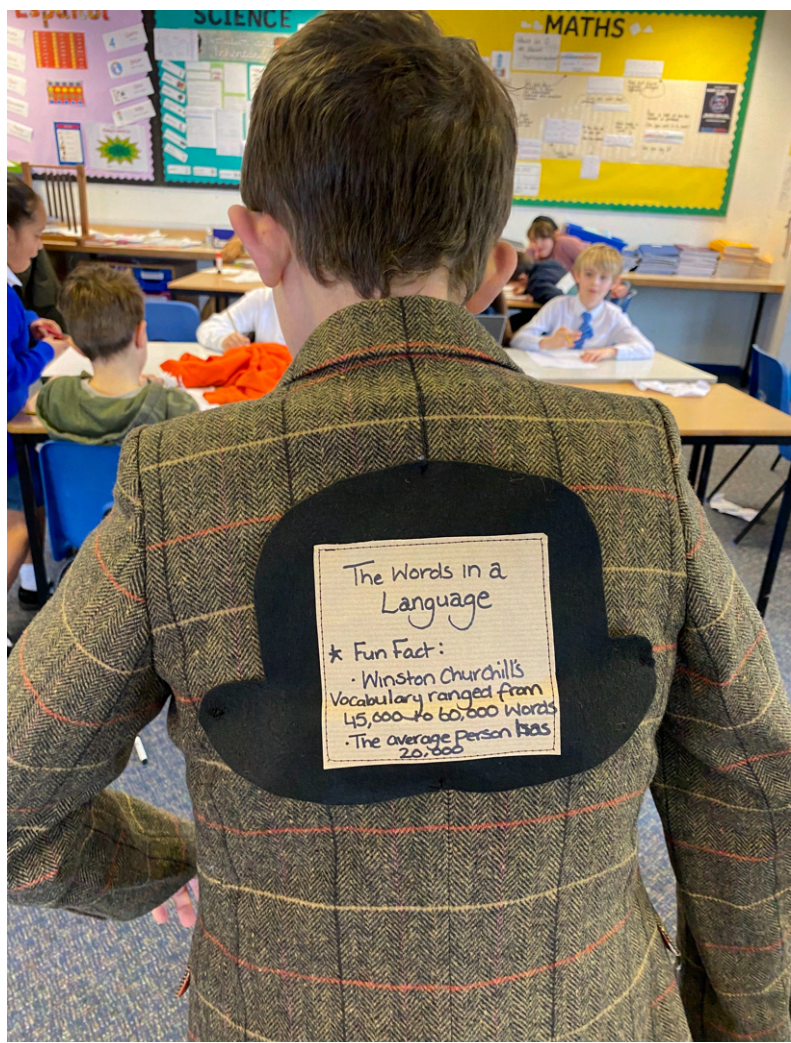
Exciting plans for 2022/23

- To have a new Head of School with fresh ideas and plans to take the children onto the next stage in their educational journey.
- Continue to develop the consistent approach across our new nursery and the rest of the school.
- Fundraising for new playground equipment/ climbing frame, totalling £16,000.



A wonderful school that we'll be very sorry to say goodbye to when our child leaves for secondary school this year!

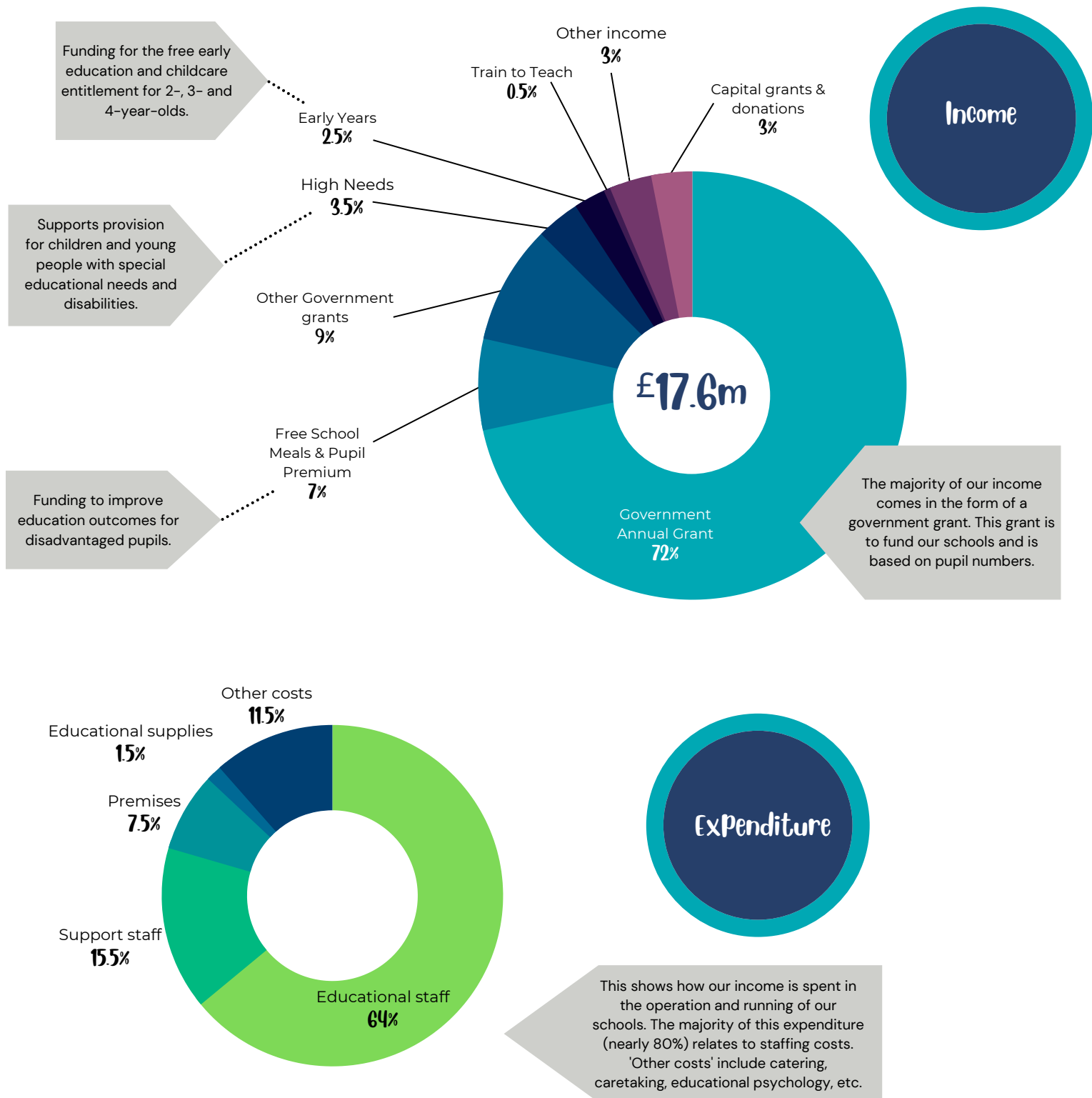
Parent feedback



Financial overview

Provided below is an overview of how our trust is funded and how we utilise these monies in order to achieve our vision.

As a trust we aim to break even and to ensure that our schools have a balanced budget.



Who's who?

Board of Trustees

Alex Walmsley

Chair of the Board

- Strategic & Finance Cttee
- Education Cttee
- Audit Cttee

Ann Denner

Vice Chair

- Strategic & Finance Cttee
- Education Cttee
- Audit Cttee

Paul Walker

Chief Executive Officer

- Strategic & Finance Cttee
- Education Cttee

Andrea Gosling

Audit Committee Chair

- Strategic & Finance Cttee
- Education Cttee
- Audit Cttee

Rev Paul Wimesett

Lead Director for Christian Distinctiveness & Ethos

Carolyn Bromfield

Lead Director for SEN & Pupil Premium Pupils

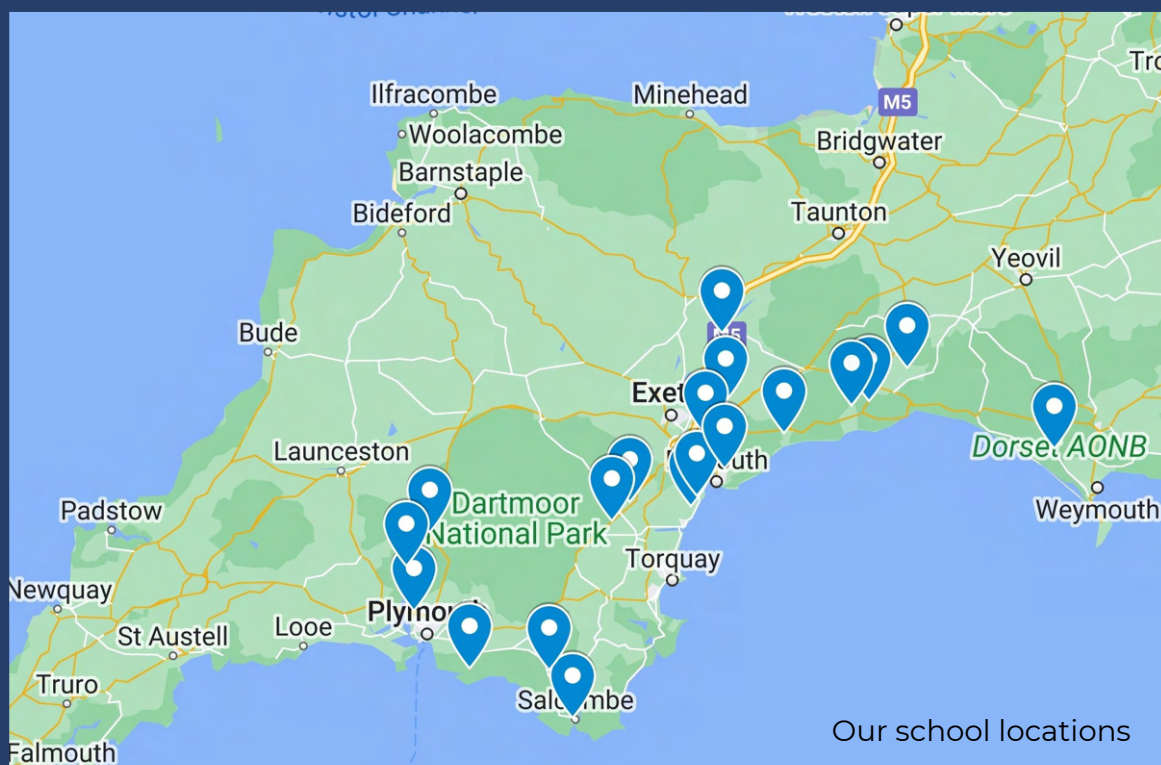
- Education Cttee

Rachel Shaw

Lead Director for Safeguarding

Senior Leadership Team

- › Paul Walker – Chief Executive Officer
- › Carol Chapman – Chief Operating and Finance Officer
- › Rachael Caunter – Director of School Improvement
- › Angela Jenkins – Director of Performance and Development
- › Claire Fegan – School Improvement Officer
- › Isabelle Candy – Governance Lead / Compliance Officer
- › Sarah Cotton – Hub Business Manager
- › Cheryl Haddy – Hub Business Manager
- › Janine Price – Hub Business Manager
- › Alex Bremner – Hub Business Manager
- › Sarah Gillies – Head of Marketing and Communications
- › Jay Presneil – IT Manager



First Federation Trust
c/o Blackpool CE Primary School
Liverton
Newton Abbot TQ12 6JB
01626 244920
admin@firstfederation.org.uk
www.firstfederation.org