

OPENING  
DOORS



OPENING  
MINDS



To provide an aspirational education which inspires all to  
SHINE in our community so that they are happy, confident  
and equipped for life in all its fullness.

Term 6

Spires  
Federation



# Dear Parents and Carers,



As we wrap up a truly exceptional school year, we are delighted to share some of the highlights that have made this year one to remember.

At Digby, we welcomed Ofsted —and we are even more delighted to be awarded an OUTSTANDING judgement. The inspection was a proud moment for our entire school community, offering a chance to showcase the dedication, creativity, and hard work of our staff and pupils. The report, which has been shared with you, praised our nurturing environment, high expectations, and the exceptional progress our children are making. It truly reflects the vibrant and supportive community we've built together.

Meanwhile, at Dunston, our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection was a wonderful affirmation of our school's ethos and values. The report celebrated the strength of our Christian vision, the inclusive and caring nature of our school, and the way our values are lived out daily by pupils and staff alike. It also recognised the powerful sense of community across the Federation, where every child is known, valued, and encouraged to flourish. Our children have had a rich and varied year of learning beyond the classroom, filled with hands-on experiences that have sparked curiosity and deepened understanding. One of the highlights was their involvement in environmental work with Wilder Doddington, where pupils engaged in meaningful activities that nurtured a sense of responsibility for the planet and a deeper appreciation of nature and sustainability. These experiences helped them connect classroom learning with real-world environmental challenges.

We also embarked on inspiring educational visits that brought learning to life. At Lincoln Castle, pupils stepped back in time, exploring the rich history of the site and gaining insights into the lives of people from the past. Meanwhile, our trip to Snipedales offered a chance to explore the wonders of the natural world, encouraging observation, reflection, and a sense of awe at the beauty of our local environment. These opportunities have enriched our curriculum and helped our children grow as thoughtful, engaged learners.

We'd like to take a moment to recognise our Year 6 pupils across the Federation. They have shown great maturity, worked with determination, and contributed positively to school life. It's been a pleasure to watch them grow and develop, and we're confident they are well-prepared for the next stage of their journey. We wish them all the very best as they move on to secondary school.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We wish you all a restful and happy summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the autumn for another exciting chapter.

Miss Winters



Mrs Toulson



Miss Vaughan



# Meet the Governors

## Vice Chair - A Watson



With over 15 years experience in senior leadership roles, including Head of Training and Competence Institute in the oil and gas sector, Andy brings extensive experience in global team development and education-industry collaboration. A long-standing advocate for equal access to high-quality education, Andy has served as a school governor, trustee, and advisor during the founding of a local university technical college and its partnerships with industry and universities. Passionate about improving educational outcomes through critical thinking and opportunity, Andy combines strategic insight with a deep commitment to young people. Outside of work, Andy is married with a Son. In his spare time he enjoys running, walking, reading, and time with family.

## Chair -A Hancy



Andrew has a strong background within senior leadership positions within both the private and public sector. He is currently Head of Business Support Services for Lincolnshire County Council with responsibilities covering a wide area of administration, secretarial and financial support, in house apprenticeships, complaints, FOI, SARS and school administration support services. Andrew is married and has 2 grown up children, a daughter and a son. In his spare time Andrew enjoys running and keeping busy renovating the Victorian farmhouse he lives in with his family.

## Foundation Governor - J Hurdman



Hello, my name is Julian Hurdman, I have lived in Dunston one of my grandchildren goes to Nocton Community Primary. My interests include cycling, running, skiing, swimming, walking, making and growing things. I am most at home in the countryside particularly fields, mountains and forests. My interest in young people's education has been lifelong. I am passionate about children acquiring skills of curiosity and understanding and developing an approach to learning which will equip them for the many challenges which they will encounter in their life. I taught secondary mathematics for thirty-eight years and have had the real delight in witnessing the progression of young people into mature and responsible adults.

# Meet the Governors

## Co-opted Governor - R Richardson



Rachelle is a Co-Opted Governor, championing the area of SEND. She works for the local authority within Business Support, supporting Fostering and Adoption teams. Rachelle has a background in supporting SEND in a similar role and has fostered strong working relationships with the SEND service team within the local authority, building a solid foundation of SEND knowledge, particularly around the EHCP process from application to implementation.

Rachelle is very passionate about every child being able to access a fulfilling education. She lives in the local community to the three schools with their partner and their 5-year-old son who attends Digby. In her spare time, she enjoys watching and following rugby after hanging up her own boots, spending time with family, and trying her hardest to tire out the family's very lively 7-month-old Spaniel cross puppy.

## Parent Governor - P Harvey



Paul is a parent governor with nearly three decades of experience in education. He believes strongly in the enabling and transformative role that schools play in young people's lives.

Paul is currently Head of Mathematics at a local grammar school and has previously held senior leadership roles in large secondary schools.

His broader experiences include working as a local authority teacher adviser, leading large-scale IT projects across a local authority, and as a maths adviser across all phases of education.

Paul has lived in the local area for over five years and is actively involved in the community. He coaches rugby at a local club, holds a season ticket for Aston Villa, and enjoys camping, walking, and spending time on the coast with his family.

## Co-opted Governor - C Simmons

I have worked within schools finance for 16 years, successfully obtaining my MAAT and CIMA qualifications. I am experienced with managing public finances and securing value for money.

It is a privilege to work with the Spires Federation.

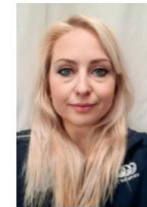
All of my spare time is devoted to my bulldog. Who has far too much character!

# Meet the Governors

## Co-opted Governor - T Swain

Thomas has a strong background in education having worked as a primary school teacher for over 10 years and previously in a secondary school as a teaching assistant. He is currently the Key Stage 1 leader at a Lincolnshire primary school with responsibilities covering safeguarding, behaviour, policy writing and subject leadership. Thomas is married with three young sons who like him love any kind of sport. In his spare time, he loves riding motorbikes, playing football and doing various DIY projects.

## Staff Governor A Stevenson



Abi is staff governor and as staff governor her primary role is to act as a voice for the staff on the governing body, ensuring their views and concerns are heard and considered. Elected by the staff, she is responsible for providing a staff perspective but not acting as a spokesperson or representative of the union.

As class teacher Abi is passionate about ensuring the federation meet the needs of the children, staff and parents being on the ground can give real insight into the real issues that can arise and need addressing.

## Parent Governor - S Wilson



I have worked in education for over a decade, and with my daughters now attending a Spire school, I am excited to work with the federation in my role as a Governor. I am really proud of what the federation has achieved in recent years and the climate it generates for the pupils.

In my spare time, I enjoy days out with my family, reading and cooking.



# Spire Federation: A summary of the year 2024-25 from Governors

**Vision:** *To provide an aspirational education which inspires all to SHINE in our community so that they are happy, confident and equipped for life in all its fullness.*

## **Message from the Governing Body**

As governors, we feel immense pride in the leadership, vision, and dedication shown by our Executive headteacher, senior leaders, teachers, and staff throughout this academic year. Their passion and commitment have shaped not only high-quality education—but thriving communities built on kindness, aspiration, and excellence.

**Thank you all for living our vision every day—and for inspiring us all to believe in life in all its fullness.**

## **Autumn Term Highlights**

The academic year began on a positive note, with Reception pupils settling smoothly into their new routines across all schools. Staff praised the children's confidence and adaptability, setting a strong foundation for learning. In a touching act of community spirit, the Federation hosted a memorial afternoon, raising an impressive £400 for Young Lives vs Cancer—a charity close to many hearts. Governance also saw the re-election of myself as Chair of Governors, and Andy Watson being reappointed as a Parent Governor and Deputy Chair, strengthening the board's overall strategic oversight. At Digby, Key Stage 2 outcomes stood out, reflecting high standards in teaching and pupil progress. Year 6 pupils embarked on their mock SATs journey, and school development plans were reviewed and streamlined to enhance clarity and impact.

## **Festive Term Moments**

The festive season brought joy and celebration as each school presented beautifully crafted nativity performances, showcasing pupils' confidence, creativity, and teamwork. These heartwarming events were well received by families and staff alike. Behind the scenes, the financial picture across all schools remained strong, with governors approving five-year balanced budgets that demonstrated clear planning and robust stewardship. Further, the Governing Body supported plans for health and safety improvements, including emergency lighting and signage upgrades—demonstrating the Federation's commitment to creating safe, welcoming environments.

## **Spring Term Successes**

Spring ushered in exciting developments, where rising pupil numbers in all our schools signalled growing confidence from families and this prompted discussions about formal partnerships with nearby schools. All three schools successfully secured energy efficiency grants that will not only reduce long-term costs but also support environmental education for pupils. Nocton celebrated the launch of its own Forest School, offering hands-on outdoor experiences that nurture wellbeing and curiosity. Sensory rooms were completed at all sites, creating vital spaces for emotional and SEND support. Across classrooms, daily writing activities were introduced to develop fluency and creativity, while Year 6 pupils led collective worship using reflection models that are now embedded in classroom practice—deepening spiritual engagement across the Federation.

## Summer Term Achievements

Summer term brought proud moments with a successful SIAMS inspection at Dunston affirming the Federation's values-led learning approach and strong spiritual development as was also evidenced by Digby back in 2023. Pupils across the schools took part in nature reserve visits where thoughtful reflections tied beautifully into curriculum themes and spiritual exploration. The Local Authority commended Digby and Dunston for their writing, history, and geography provision, noting how confidently pupils discussed their learning during visits. A series of site upgrades further enhanced learning environments—new play areas, seating, and technology additions were completed in time for the summer. Attendance across the Federation remained above the national average, reflecting both strong engagement from families and purposeful teaching. Responding to parent needs, leaders also began exploring wrap-around care options at Nocton, with hopes to launch supportive childcare provision in the future.

## Finance & Governance

Throughout the year, governors remained committed to strong oversight and strategic support. All three schools had their five-year financial plans ratified following rigorous review and challenge. Leaders worked closely with finance governors to ensure transparency and responsiveness to changing needs. SEND provision was enhanced with new staffing plans that upheld the rights and entitlements of pupils with EHCPs. Safeguarding remained a top priority, with audits rated Green across the Federation and visible updates including new noticeboards and digital resources.

## Strategic Review & Future Collaboration

Earlier this year, the Federation explored the possibility of joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) following a directive from the Department for Education linked to Digby's previous inspection outcomes. However, after the government withdrew such academisation orders in late 2024, governors conducted a thorough cost–benefit analysis and made the informed decision not to progress with conversion. Instead, the Federation is now actively building collaborative working arrangements with other small local schools—plans that are already bringing notable benefits in shared expertise and support. The Governing Body remains committed to reviewing our MAT options annually in line with our [Strategic Plan and SDP 2023-2026](#).

## Finally - A Landmark Achievement for Digby

We're thrilled to close this academic year with truly exceptional news. Following its Ofsted inspection in July 2025, Digby Church of England School was rated **Outstanding in all areas**. Inspectors praised the school's nurturing atmosphere, ambitious curriculum, and exceptional pupil behaviour, noting: *"Pupils love their small, nurturing village school... They relish challenge and take care to produce work of the highest quality."* This is a remarkable recognition of the school's vision-led leadership, dedicated staff, and relentless pursuit of excellence. On behalf of the Governing Body, we offer heartfelt [congratulations](#) to the senior leadership team and every member of staff across the Federation who contributed to this achievement. You have done our community proud.

## Closing Message

To all our staff, families, and pupils—thank you for your unwavering commitment and contributions this year. Your positivity, resilience, and passion bring our Federation's vision to life every single day.

We wish you a joyful and restful summer and look forward to an inspiring 2025–26



# Pixies

## Term 6

What a fantastic end to a fantastic year. There has been smiles all round as we finish all our learning. We have loved our DT creating moving monsters, learning all about the seaside in history and designing our own animal habitats in science.

EYFS became super superheroes! They are so ready for year 1 with their out of this world writing!

What a marvelous sports day we had, and everyone should be so proud of all they have achieved this year.

We loved meeting our new reception and we cannot wait for yet another amazing year in pixies. Happy summer everybody!



# Pixies





# Gnomes

## Term 6

What a busy Summer term we have had in Gnomes! We have particularly enjoyed learning all about the Ancient Greeks and making our own papier mâché vases.

We learnt all about our digestive system as part of our science this term; creating our own little model teeth and investigating to find out which drinks cause the most damage.

Sports day was a particular highlight too. The children showed great teamwork and perseverance during the races and enjoyed lots of fun activities visiting the FODS stalls afterwards.





# Imps

## Term 6

Our final term has been packed with exciting activities, from attending the school church festival at the cathedral to a football match against Dunston, a Kinema trip, and a fun-filled water fight. We enjoyed a fantastic sports day and took part in amazing classroom projects, including creating websites on Scratch, designing multifunctional devices in DT, and exploring Ancient Greece in History.



You asked, we listened



Following valuable parental feedback regarding maths homework across the federation, we have explored alternatives that better align with our maths curriculum.

We are pleased to share that, from September, children will be bringing home new maths homework books. These books not only align with our curriculum and our chosen maths scheme provider, but also include key vocabulary and knowledge organisers to support both children and the adults helping them at home.

We hope you agree that these are a much-improved addition to our planned homework provision.

# Gardening Club



What a great achievement! Gardening club have been awarded RHS Award level 2, 3 and 4.

# School Office

The school office is looked after by Mrs Elliott. She can be contacted on 01526 320630 or [admin@spiresfederation.co.uk](mailto:admin@spiresfederation.co.uk)



## Wrap Around Care Direct

### Telephone Number

A reminder that we have set up a direct telephone line for **Breakfast Club** and **After School Club** - the telephone number is: **01526 552500**

The line will be available between **7.20am and 8.40am** and **3.20pm and 6.00pm** and only for use by parents who need to contact breakfast or afterschool club whilst their child is there.

## School office

The office is open 8.30am to 3.30pm Mon to Thur & 8.30am to 12.30 Fri.  
Calls & emails will be diverted to Dunston when the office is unmanned during school hours.

## Bus Children & Changes to pick ups

Can we ask that parents give us as much notice as possible when changes are made regarding children going home.  
We understand that circumstances do change, we have systems in place so we know where each child should be, but late calls/emails may not be picked up in time to get the message to the relevant staff.

## Attendance 24/25

Pixies – 95.5%  
Gnomes – 96.9%  
Imps – 96.9%  
Whole School – 96.4%

Thank You!

# Wrap Around Care (WAC)



## Wrap Around Care

### Before and After School Childcare

2024/25

Our three schools offer wrap-around childcare provision for families. You may book the day and section of time that suits you. Bookings are made up to three days prior through our Parentmail payments system, with an up-front charge to cover the period booked. If you will be paying using Tax Free Childcare Vouchers, please select the box on PMX to make us aware.

#### **Breakfast Time**

For those children attending a before school session we will provide a variety of cereals, yoghurts and fruit, along with the option of toast for their breakfast. This will help them start their day on a nice full tummy. We aim to meet all dietary requirements, so please communicate with the WAC supervisor if you need an adjusted food provision.

If you book a 'drop-off' session only, breakfast is not provided.

#### **After School Time**

Following our school healthy eating approach, we offer the children a light, healthy snack and fruit to keep them full until you arrive to take them home for their family meal. We understand the importance of making sure the children are nutritionally balanced and will endeavor to make sure we fulfil those needs. Drinks and fruit will always be available throughout all sessions.

#### **Medication**

Should your child need to take any medication whilst at clubs please use the standard school medication form and inform us immediately.

#### **Opening Times**

We are delighted to now offer wrap around care as follows (new times and prices for 24/25):

# Free Courses

## **\*\*FREE courses for you and your families\*\***

The Solihull approach promotes emotional health and well-being for all children and their parents' carers and grandparents so that they can thrive as kind sociable and emotionally aware people throughout their lives. That's why the Solihull Approach, with a core team of NHS clinical psychologists, child psychotherapists, health professional's child and family practitioners together with schools and parents have developed training to support people who work with children in any setting as well as for all parents, who want to support and nurture emotional health.

The Solihull Approach is proud to offer 'inourplace' as your portal for online courses tailored to children's developmental stages for you to learn in your own time in a safe, private space.

Inourplace is currently funded in Lincolnshire to provide you and your families FREE access to expert learning and resources about child development, well-being, brain changes and much more!

Register online at <https://inourplace.co.uk/> and apply our Lincolnshire code we\_can to access all of their amazing resources for free. Share it with your families today!

Source: Julie-Anne Leek  
Early Years Improvement Advisor

# Stay Safe Newsletter



As the Summer Term heads to the holidays, and September approaches, many parents will be facing the question "Should my child have a phone?"

Often young people only see the benefits of their new device...



But as parents, we worry about the harms they may be exposed to...



## Top tips for keeping children safe online

- Consider choosing a 'dumb phone' or basic phones with limited features.
- Turn on broadband filters to provide basic protection from inappropriate websites.
- On a smartphone, use controls to limit chat functions, manage privacy settings & control what content children can access.
- Always set screen time limits to help manage and control device usage of your child inside and outside the house.
- Shut down mobile phones at least an hour before bedtime and charge devices outside of their bedrooms to promote better sleep.
- Develop digital rules for your family, stick to them and review them regularly as children grow to ensure they remain effective.
- Set a password in app stores to restrict what children can download on their devices.
- Discuss how suitable social media platforms are for your child & the potential risks vs benefits before creating accounts.

For more information



[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

# Summer Holidays Visual Arts

# hub

**Drop-In Making  
Activities**  
10am–2pm  
30 min activity  
**£3, 5yrs+**  
**Activity 30 mins**

29 Jul Yarnscape  
5 Aug Dazzle Sculptures  
12 Aug Mini Clay Pots  
19 Aug T-Shirt Printing  
26 Aug Craft-A-Keyring

**Explore Arts  
Award-Craft**  
Thu 31 Jul  
7, 14, 21, 28 Aug  
10.30am–12.30pm  
**£50 all sessions,  
7–11yrs**

Hub, Navigation Wharf,  
Carre Street, Sleaford,  
NG34 7TW

**Gallery  
Families**  
7, 28 Aug  
11am–12pm  
**FREE, all ages**  
**no need to book**



**Book  
Now**  
[hub-sleaford.org.uk](http://hub-sleaford.org.uk)



# Summer Holidays Dance

# hub

**Youth Dance**  
30 Jul, 20 Aug  
2–3.30pm  
**£8, 11–16yrs+**

**Hub Dance Tiniies**  
Wed 30 Jul  
6, 20, 27 Aug  
10–11am  
**£5.50, £3 siblings**  
**0–4yrs**

**Children's Dance**  
Wed 30 Jul  
6, 20, 27 Aug  
11.30am–12.30pm  
**£6, 5–7yrs**

**Arts Award  
Discover in a  
Day-Dance**  
Wed 13 Aug  
10.30am–3pm  
**£30, 8–11yrs**

**Dance &  
Disabilities**  
Wed 6, 27 Aug  
2–3.30pm  
**£8, 10–24yrs**



**Book  
Now**  
[hub-sleaford.org.uk](http://hub-sleaford.org.uk)



# Wrap Around Care



## WRAP AROUND CARE



We offer term time before and after school clubs for children at school including breakfast, snacks and drinks.



Monday to Friday  
7.30am until 6pm

- Outdoor Games
- Treasure Hunts
- Themed events
- and much more!!!

**Enquire Now**

[admin@spiresfederation.co.uk](mailto:admin@spiresfederation.co.uk)

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

Wraparound childcare offers a safe, supportive and fun place outside of school hours. It also gives parents more flexibility with drop off and collection times.

Search 'Childcare Choices' to see what support you could get.



Here to help  
you juggle  
family life

Wraparound childcare is  
expanding across England.

And you can use Tax-Free Childcare or  
Universal Credit Childcare to help to pay  
for it.

Search 'Childcare Choices' to see what  
support you could get.




## Absences

### Exceptional Circumstances


*We would like to remind all families of the legal framework surrounding term-time holidays and the issuing of penalty notices for unauthorised absences, in conjunction with advice from the Local Authority.*

*Please be aware that **there is no right of appeal** against a penalty notice once it has been issued. The decision to authorise or unauthorise an absence rests solely with the School. It is important to remember you should discuss any concerns you have with the school **before** a leave of absence is considered.*

*We understand that some employers may restrict when holidays can be taken, and that travel costs can vary significantly throughout the year. However, **neither of these factors constitutes an exceptional circumstance**, according to guidance from the Department for Education, **Working together to improve school attendance (applies from 19 August 2024)** and **Resources for families | Children's Commissioner for England** and therefore cannot be considered, as a valid reason for authorising term-time leave.*



*We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in ensuring that your child's education remains a priority.*



# Wrap Around Care (WAC)



## Current Opening Times

We are delighted to now offer wrap around care as follows (new times and prices for 24/25):

WAC Session	Time	Price
Breakfast Club	7:30am - 8:45am	£5
Drop off Only	8:20am - 8:45am	£2.50
After School Club (early twilight)	3:20pm - 4:20pm	£4.50
After School Club (late twilight)	3:20pm - 6pm	£10

Ideally please book and pay before term starts to secure your place. We will try to accommodate late bookings – please contact the school office.

## Clubs Staff

Mrs Butler	Dunston
Mrs Colley	Dunston
Mrs Elliott	Digby
Miss Thompson-Dowse	Nocton

Please call the school office if you have any queries.

For billing queries, please email [admin@spiresfederation.co.uk](mailto:admin@spiresfederation.co.uk) specifying which school your query relates to.



Happy Summer  
Holidays

