



Governor News



Wirksworth Federation of Infant Schools – 21st May 2015

The Board of Governors

Tricia Rice - Chair; co-opted governor

Nicky Crompton - Vice-chair and chair of learning & teaching committee; co-opted governor

Sally Pearson - Parent governor Wirksworth Church of England Infant School and chair of resource committee

Hanna Link - Parent governor Wirksworth Infant School

Sue Todd - Foundation governor

Lucy Williams-Hunter - Foundation governor

Penny Beresford - Local authority governor

Sarah Waller - Staff governor

Jo Poyser - Headteacher

Betty Brown is clerk to the governing body

We currently have 3 co-opted governor vacancies

Co-opted governors are appointed by the governing body and are people who have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

Reconstitution of the governing body

The Department for Education now requires all governing bodies to be constituted under specific regulations, which means that we needed to review our size and structure and have a new constitution approved by the Local Authority in time for 1 September 2015. We have completed this process and as a result there have been a few changes to our structure and membership. Our new structure with who is in post can be found in the box on the left of this page.

Following reconstitution Jenny Babenko (parent governor WI), Myra Clay (staff governor) and Mike Ratcliffe (local authority governor) have stepped down and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their valuable contribution to the governing body, in Mike's case over the last twelve years!

Skills and recruitment of new governors

Government requires governing bodies to have the skills to ensure effective governance and contribute to the success of the school. We carried out a skills audit prior to reconstitution and, whilst we have a range of skills on the governing body to ensure we remain effective, we would like to fill our vacancies with new governors who have wider skills we are currently short of. This will ensure we have the capacity to support our schools, staff and children most effectively.

In particular we need to recruit new governors to join our resource committee which oversees the financial management of our schools, premises, staff performance management and health and safety. We are also keen for media/communication experience on our team. There is more information on what we do and the opportunities available overleaf. If you, or anyone you know, might have these skills and are interested in working with us to benefit our schools and children, do get in touch with me to find out more.

Kind regards

Tricia Rice, Chair of governors



To get in touch please leave a message in your school office, Mrs Rowlatt or Mrs Radley will pass it on to me.

An update on our work

You may have seen us at school fairs, performances and parents evenings helping out, but we also have specific responsibilities associated with monitoring and strategic direction.

Monitoring: we have been monitoring **progress and attainment** in reception and years 1 & 2 to ensure that governors have an independent view so we can provide appropriate challenge if necessary. All the data is anonymised for governors, we look at years and groups rather than individual or named children.

Sue Todd, is frequently in school to lead **collective worship**. Sue has also monitored the delivery of collective worship within school and provided feedback and support to staff.

Interviews & appointments: Governors are responsible for the appointment of new staff and most recently Tricia, with Mrs Poyser and Mrs Birch, interviewed teachers to replace Miss Potter whilst she is on sabbatical. We did appoint and Mrs Poyser will introduce you to our new member of staff when the formalities are confirmed.

School Budget: In April Tricia was involved in the budget setting meeting with our Local Authority Finance Officer. At our June meeting governors approved a responsible budget for our schools for the coming year with a focus on the school improvement priorities.

What do governors do?

School governors have three core functions:

- Setting the vision and strategic direction of the school
- Holding the headteacher to account for its educational performance, and
- Ensuring financial resources are well spent.

We do this at a strategic level, leaving Mrs Poyser to do the day to day running of the school, but we monitor progress through discussions at meetings, reviewing results and by going into school and taking part in some of school life.

Do you have skills that we need?

Following reconstitution we need to recruit governors who can bring skills to our resource committee. The committee is chaired by Sally Pearson and currently comprises Hanna Link, Tricia Rice and Jo Poyser. This committee is responsible for any matters involving finance or financial management, for example monitoring the annual budget and making any necessary recommendations for changes to the full governing body. The committee also has responsibility for policy and monitoring around a range of personnel issues such as staffing structure, recruitment, performance management, pay review, discipline and grievances. The other main area of work delegated to this committee relates to the management of school premises such as decoration and repairs, items of major expenditure such as building works and ensuring the health and safety of all employees, children and visitors to our schools.

Could you be a governor?

Being a governor requires energy, enthusiasm and a commitment to take on responsibility and work as part of a team with other governors and school staff. If you would like to find out more about what being a governor involves then please do get in touch, we would be very happy to discuss what we do to help you make a decision about whether it may be right for you.

Church School Inspection

A number of governors were involved in our recent inspection. Nicky and Sally joined other parents who have children at Wirksworth Church of England Infant School to meet the Inspector and talk about the school. The Inspector specifically wanted to meet our foundation governors Sue and Lucy (appointed by the Church) to satisfy herself that they were fulfilling their role in supporting the Christian character of the school. She also met Tricia as Chair, to ensure the strategic direction and aspirations of the governing body offer effective leadership. The inspection was really positive and we look forward to sharing the outcome with you when we have received it.