

Governors' Newsletter October 2017

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you have all settled into school life, especially our newer families that have joined the school this year. The School Governors continue to support the tremendous work done by the staff at the school. We are guided in our efforts by the School Development Plan; a document that is constantly being adapted by the teaching staff to ensure we tailor our efforts to match the needs of our pupils.

Governors are volunteers who have an important part to play in raising school standards by providing strategic leadership and accountability in schools. Listed below are the members of the current governing body with their areas of responsibility shown for this academic year:

School Governor	Responsibilities for 2017/18
Oli Rahman	Chair, Child Protection & Safeguarding
Julia Gallagher	Local Authority Governor - Co-Vice Chair, Finance
Sarah Axtell	Co-Vice Chair, Standards, Achievement & Curriculum
Hildi Mitchell	Head Teacher Staff Governor
Hannah Gates	Staff Governor - Income Generating Projects
Niall Howell	Premises, Health & Safety
Katie Salvidge	Inclusion (Pupil Premium & Special Educational Needs)
Claire McCann	Personnel
Tony Fallowfield	Parent Governor - Finance, Standards, Achievement & Curriculum
Laura Dinsdale	Parent Governor - Standards, Achievement & Curriculum
Tim Moore	Parent Governor - Income Generating Projects

We currently have a vacant spot for a Parent Governor and I have already spoken to some of you who have expressed an interest in this position. If you feel you would like to make a difference, please can I ask you to complete the nomination form attached. Nominations should be submitted to the school office by **3.00pm on Friday 3rd November 2017.**

Parents or carers are asked to submit a short account of themselves and what they feel they could bring to the role (max 200 words) with their nomination form. In the event of more than two parents or carers being nominated, these will be circulated to parents with a relevant voting slip. The successful candidate will be announced as soon as the process has been completed. We are the hoping they will join us at the next Full Governing Body meeting which is scheduled for Wed 15th November 6pm-8pm.

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We are particularly interested in those who have experience in scrutinising and monitoring budgets, or familiarity in 'premises, health and safety' related issues. However, the needs for other skills to complement and enhance those of the existing Governing Body emerge from time to time, and expressions of interest are welcomed as we will hold details on file in the event that further vacancies arise. We are keen to ensure that the membership of our governing body reflects the diversity of the pupils in our school and community. Therefore, we welcome applications from under-represented groups, particularly from black or minority ethnic backgrounds.

The commitment we expect from our Governing Body involves up to six evening meetings a year, a variable number of day time visits to the school to explore specific issues and report back to fellow governors, plus a commitment to attend governor training. The successful candidate will be appointed for a four year term.

Further information about the School Development Plan and the job that a school governor does can be found on the school website. Feel free to contact me via the school office and I will be happy to answer any questions you have about the role of the Governing Body.

Oli Rahman

Chair of Governors, Downs Infant School