



GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

**SUMMER
TERM
2019**
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Letter from the Chair

Dear Everyone,

The Government's Governance Handbook sets out the purpose of governance which is to provide 'confident, strategic leadership, and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance' As such the governors have, alongside the leaders in school, been working very hard to meet these requirements. I believe that both the school and governing body are now good in Ofsted terms. However, a further period of time to embed this now needs to follow.

Thank goodness SATs are over and now Y6 can have a well-earned wonderful end to the term. I came into school on the Tuesday to verify that all the procedures during the tests were compliant with requirements. They were rock solid and the children were impressive in their approach to taking the tests. I also took part in a senior leadership meeting where I could see for myself that the school leaders are doing an outstanding job. In fact Mr Swift has just told me that he has been successful in achieving the National Professional Qualification for Headship which is a very extensive and demanding qualification. Our congratulations go to him.

A short time after the Ofsted, the Local Authority reviewed the governance of the school. We were required to produce a governance action plan which reflected the school development plan. Myself, and the vice chair and chairs of both committees, Lorraine Hanson, Pam Denton and Hazel Hogan got together and produced a plan which we look at during each full governors meeting and decide how we will carry it out.

This means that during the last term, we have been involved in monitoring throughout the school. We have worked in teams and monitored school development as a church school as we await our SIAMS inspection as well as various aspects of the curriculum in respect of the changes that have been implemented since the start of the year.

We have visited all classrooms, monitored plans, observed parts of lessons, looked at displays, monitored books and spoken with staff and children.

We monitored the writing progress displays in each classroom. Expectations were clear for children and the displays were supportive, containing SPAG reminders, new vocabulary, writing checklists and high-quality examples. The displays showed consistency and progression throughout the school.

Handwriting has been a focus this year. The children were able to explain how they are taught handwriting from the Early Years through to year 3. All children were aware of the expectations and books showed a significant improvement since the start of the year.

A maths learning walk took place which involved visiting all classes. Children were observed working in small adult-led groups, during whole class lessons and using iPads. Class displays were engaging and showed expectations of current topics as well as year group expectations.

We discussed and were showed plans for the new approach to the wider curriculum (subjects other than English and maths). Teachers have worked very hard in developing these plans which look exciting and engaging for the pupils. They will enable children to deepen their knowledge and develop a wide range of vocabulary.

We have been impressed by the quality of work produced by the children and the dedication of staff in bringing about these changes in order to support our children's learning.

In June some governors were present to welcome the new incumbent. We are looking forward to him joining the governing body.

Thank you for all your responses to the parent questionnaire. Looking at them tells us that you are also pleased with the school. If you have any further suggestions please feel free to e-mail me at hillingp@alverthorpestpauls.co.uk

I hope you all have a lovely holiday when it arrives.

Best Wishes,

Pauline Hilling-Smith
Chair of Governors



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Governor Profiles

Lorraine Hanson – Vice Chair of Governing Body & Chair of SIAMS Committee

I am pleased to introduce myself as the vice chair of governors of this school. I have served on the governing body as a foundation governor since 2011. This was as I was approaching retirement as the Headteacher of another church aided school in Wakefield. I gained experience and skills over fifteen years as a class teacher in special and primary schools and a further sixteen years as a primary school Headteacher. I wanted to continue to utilise the expertise I had developed for the benefit of the children at this school.

As vice chair of governors I work collectively with other governors to support the work of the school, by upholding the best interests of the children and promoting high standards of achievement. In the absence of the chair of governors I temporarily step up into that role. This can include chairing meetings and taking decisions between meetings. Together with the chair, the vice chair has a particular role in the recruitment of school leaders.

The governing body is collectively responsible for determining the ethos, values and culture of the school. As a foundation governor and a committed Christian I, together with other governors, promote the religious character of the school as a Church of England school. This forms the basis of the ethos of this school. For the past seven years I have also gained expertise as a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspector, inspecting other church primary schools, to promote their development as church schools, in order to support the well-being and achievements of their pupils.

I feel privileged to be part of this wonderful school, with such conscientious staff and delightful children.

Pamela Denton – Foundation Governor & Chair of Resources Committee

I went to a teacher training college in Alsager, Cheshire, and after three years there, I became a newly qualified teacher for the junior age group. After years as a class teacher, I became a head teacher until I retired. It was a lovely career for me – I enjoyed being both a teacher and a head teacher.

The people who worshipped in St Paul's Church, as I did, must have realised how much I missed my life in school, and persuaded me to be a governor, and before I knew it, I was the Chair of Governors. Mrs Chell and I worked together for 6 years until she retired. I then I stepped down as chair in December 2018 but wanted to remain Governor and continue to support school. It really is a pleasure to be involved with the running of the school.

Apart from Governors, I sing in a choir, am involved with a voluntary organisation, and also help with my daughters outside catering company. I have three grandchildren, one of whom is in Year 4 at St Paul's school. I knit, sew, grow tomatoes and beans and love to live a busy life!

Andrew Gelder – Parent Governor

I am a father to Elliot, currently in Year 5 at St Paul's School and Niall, aged 5 year who is embarking on his school career with Mrs Wood. I also have two girls, my 16 year old daughter Naomi who is working hard towards her GCSE's at University Technical College in Leeds and my eldest daughter Cameron aged 18 is currently working for Yorkshire Ambulance Service. I am also employed by Yorkshire Ambulance Service where my role is based in Information Technology, Data Analysis and Project management. I also have experience in Adult Learning, Quality Audit, Information Governance, Group demonstrations and medical telephone triage.

My family and I have a long history with the school as my brother attended when it first opened in 1974 and I then followed 4 years later. It is this connection that now leads me to a point where I would like to give something back to the school and community to make sure that the school and students continue to flourish long into the future.

I have a strong belief in giving children the maximum opportunities to discover their potential through education and extra curriculum activities alike. I enjoy contributing to developing individuals as well as supporting the learning environment for students. As a parent governor I would offer commitment, enthusiasm and determination to make a difference. It is important to me that the school continues to enhance the lives of the students attending whilst retaining the close knit community ethos as this serves to provide a safe and stable educating environment. Supporting the school in making correct decisions that affect all aspects of a child's education is a challenge that I feel I could fulfil as a fair and critical friend to St Paul's.



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SIAMS Committee

This committee meets each half term and consists of three governors and three staff members, including the Headteacher. The responsibility of the governing body regarding upholding and promoting the religious character of this school, within the context of the Church of England, is focused on by this committee. Proposals are then brought to the full governing body for approval. This includes school policies, which come under the remit of SIAMS, such as the Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship Policies.

As a church school we are inspected approximately every five years under SIAMS (as well as Ofsted) and supporting the school in the preparation for SIAMS inspection is a significant aspect of the work of this committee.

The aspects of the SIAMS inspection are as follows:

- Strand 1 Vision and Leadership
- Strand 2 Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
- Strand 3 Character Development
- Strand 4 Community and Living Well Together
- Stand 5 Dignity and Respect
- Stand 6 The Impact of Collective Worship
- Stand 7 The Effectiveness of RE

Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the school in these areas are given attention. This includes governors talking to staff and seeing for themselves the Christian environment and the school's work in these areas. This is by taking part in learning walks, observing RE lessons and collective worship, interviewing pupils and work scrutiny. This also includes governors working with staff on the school's SIAMS self-evaluation document.

Governor Calendar

Date	Event
Tuesday 25 th June	Resources Committee Meeting
Tuesday 9 th July	Full Governors Meeting
Friday 12 th July	Standards Committee Meeting

Governors also come into school to monitor the impact of the School Development Plan Priorities.

Resources Committee

During the Spring Term, the Resources Committee has continued to concentrate on finance, staffing and premises.

The two meetings have covered matters which needed a lot of thought and discussion, and have included:

- Considering and approving the school budget for 2019 – 2020;
- Reviewing the charges of St Paul's United;
- Approved an appointment of a temporary teacher from September 2019;
- Reviewing Health & Safety, which included discussing the results from an audit where the school scored 91%, mean the school was placed into Band A.
- Discussed the maintenance of the school building;
- Approved four members of school staff being trained as Fire Wardens;
- Agreed to the building of a new cloakroom area in the separate building and a new meeting room and storage area in the main building.

Governing Body 2018/2019

Name	Role
Pauline Hilling-Smith (Foundation Governor)	Chair of Governors All committees
Lorraine Hanson (Foundation Governor)	Vice-Chair of Governors Resources Committee SIAMS Committee Performance Management Committee
Hazel Hogan (Foundation Governor)	Chair of Standards Committee Performance Management Committee
Pam Denton (Foundation Governor)	Chair of Resources Committee Standards Committee SIAMS Committee Performance Management Committee
Dana Clarke (Foundation Governor)	Resources Committee
Angela Binns (Parent Governor)	Standards Committee
Andrew Gelder (Parent Governor)	Resources Committee
David Marshall (LA Governor)	Resources Committee
Lucy Riley (Foundation Governor)	Resources Committee
Mark Sutcliffe	Staff Governor Resources Committee
Lee Swift	Headteacher (Ex Officio) All committees
Charlotte Somerville	Co-opted Governor Standards Committee