



## Governors newsletter to Parents Spring term 2019

Welcome to the Overstone Governor' newsletter, designed to inform parents and carers about our work and current priorities. We are pleased to welcome Sarah Dunn, Kirsty Berry and Steve Fuller to the Governing body, all of whom bring a wealth of experience from varying professional backgrounds. We are also looking for a community governor, with expertise in communications and digital marketing (see governor recruitment below for more details).

Overstone school plays a crucial role in our local community and we would like to thank all involved in working towards providing quality education for the children and families it serves. We are well aware of the challenges the school currently faces and it is our role is to support the school and parents through these challenging times.

Overstone strives to provide a comprehensive curriculum complemented by wider educational opportunities such as trips, art weeks, sporting events and enterprise activities. We would like to thank all staff and volunteers who help to make these events happen.

### Teaching and learning

The Governing body is aware of the challenges the school faces with teacher recruitment especially mid-way through an academic year. We support the school leadership team in exploring all avenues to recruit the very best teachers available. However, we fully acknowledge that this teacher shortage is an ongoing concern to both parents and children. We would like to recognise and thank the substantial efforts and dedication of all staff within the school to support classes during this period of transition. We will continue to work with school leaders on a comprehensive programme of recruitment in the coming months. We are grateful to the Cottesloe School senior leaders and staff for their partnership support in KS2 particularly supporting our Senior Leadership team, including input from Ralph Batten (School Improvement Adviser).

All Governors commit to regular visits to the school including spending time with members of the leadership team and observing learning across the school. Governors also have specific roles and areas of the curriculum on which to focus.

### Whole school behaviour

Encouraging positive student behaviour across the school is a key priority. The Governing body fully endorses the CHARM programme and we are delighted to see such tremendous uptake and engagement from the children. More details can be found on the school website [here](#) and [here](#). We encourage parents and carers to engage fully with this programme.

Thank you to parents and carers who responded to a recent survey on our Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy. All feedback will be taken into account as we continue to develop the policy. There will be an additional opportunity to respond in the yearly parental survey in the summer term.

## **School Funding**

You may have seen a number of stories in the press about reductions in school funding and how this issue is increasingly causing pressure on school budgets across the country. Overstone school is no exception. The Governing body will support the school leadership team in making efficiencies and reducing costs wherever possible. We will continue to work hard to ensure that financial pressures have the least possible impact on teaching. School funding remains a serious concern.

We would like to thank the PTA, who work tirelessly to raise additional funds to enhance children's wider school experience. We also thank all members of the school and local community who take part in school fundraising activities.

## **Governor recruitment**

We are seeking to recruit a number of Governors from the local community. An interest in the success of the school is an essential attribute and we are also hoping to attract skills in communication and digital marketing. Governors do not need to be parents of children currently at the school. Please contact the Chair of Governors via [governors@overstone-wing.org](mailto:governors@overstone-wing.org) for further details

## **Role of the Governing Body**

The role of the Governing Body is to act as a strategic leader of the school. The law states that the Governing Body should "conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement at the school". In all types of schools, governing bodies should have a strong focus on **four core** strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account including the for educational performance of the school and its pupils and ensuring the school is safe
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- Ensuring that the school meets its statutory responsibilities including ensuring that the children and young people attending the school are safe

All Governors are volunteers and include parents, staff and members of the local community. Governors are not involved in the day-to-day running of the school which is the responsibility of the Headteacher. Further information on the roles of individual Governors can be found via the school [website](#) and on the Governor noticeboard, which are currently in the process of being updated.

Members of the Governing Body may be contacted via the school office or school e-mail address [governors@overstone-wing.org](mailto:governors@overstone-wing.org). The Governing body will continue to support all members of the school community and strive to communicate our work on a more regular basis.

We would finally like to thank again all parents, carers, staff and volunteers who contribute their time and energy to ensuring the children of Overstone school are safe, supported and nurtured.