



March 2019

Dear parents/carers

I promised you regular information from the Governing Board and this is our latest communication.

The focus is on the role of the Board and in particular information in the form of 'pen portraits' of Chair of Governors, Chair of Finance and Standards Committee and Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee.

The core functions of the Governing Board are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school
- Holding leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- Foster a common culture, values and ethos across the school

As Chair of governors I am responsible for ensuring the effective functioning of the Governing Board. I try to

- Provide clear leadership and direction to the Board, keeping it focused on its core functions
- Encourage governors to work as part of an effective team, building their skills, knowledge and experience
- Ensure that all governors are actively contributing relevant skills and experience, participating constructively in meetings and playing their part in the work of any committees
- Ensure every governor knows what is expected of them and receives appropriate training and induction. It is for the Chair to have honest conversations, as necessary, if governors are not pulling their weight

I am proud to be Chair of Governors of Barleyhurst Park. I have been involved in education all my working life in very many roles, including Headship, so my knowledge is very extensive. I currently have a first class team of governors with a wide range of skills and experience as validated by the recent Ofsted Inspection.

I thank Jo Dyer, Chair of our Finance and Standards Committee, and Claire Davidson, Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee for the following information. What I consider to be very relevant and important is the fact that two key committees are chaired by parent governors! Parents' support and feedback is essential for any school to continue to develop.

If as parents/carers you have any issues for Governors' consideration please contact me via the school

James Armstrong.

Chair of Governors

Barleyhurst Park Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs W Smith B.Ed. (Hons) NPQH



Jo Dyer, Chair of Finance and Standards

I am Jo Dyer, one of your parent governors. Samuel is in Year 4 and my third child to attend Barleyhurst Park - I have been a parent here since it opened and know my children have been nurtured and supported well, that is why I volunteered last May to join the Governing Board and give something back to the school.

As well as being a mum to 3, I work full time at The Open University as the Head of Curriculum Management in the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies.

I have worked there for 22 years and currently manage a team of 80+ staff in a variety of roles supporting the development and delivery of curriculum including Nursing, Social Work, Teacher Training and Language Studies. My experience at work includes extensive staff, change and project management and the skills I have developed can be transferred to the Governing Board to both support and challenge the Leadership Team in their decision making and strategic direction.

I have a Master in Education degree which covered the subjects of child development, identity and inclusion. I have a passion for education serving the needs of all and have agreed to share the SEN Governor role with Claire, my fellow parent governor.

Together we bring different skill sets and experience to support the school to deliver the best type of education and environment for all its pupils. The right to an education that meets the needs of individuals is crucial if all children are to reach their full potential and it is vital that the Governing Board has a good oversight of how this is delivered in practice. In addition to the SEN role I am also the Safeguarding Governor, another area which is vital to the wellbeing of pupils, both inside and outside of school.

The final role I undertake is Chair of the Finance and Staffing Committee. A supported and well-resourced workforce is one that is motivated with a commitment to delivering excellence in all that they do. The Governing Board has a responsibility to support the Senior Leadership in maintaining and further developing an environment that provides this, good staff morale impacts on your children positively and with real benefit.

I aim to be an advocate for all so that Barleyhurst Park can be a safe and supportive place for children to explore, grow and learn and for all staff to deliver a contribution that is recognised and valued. I am delighted to work with such committed colleagues on the Governing Board to support the School in all it does.

Claire Davidson, Chair of Teaching and Learning

My name is Claire Davidson and I am a parent governor. I joined the governing board at the end of October last year. The main reason I volunteered to be a parent governor is my commitment to, and belief in, the importance of high-quality education for all children. With my background in teaching, I am truly passionate about education and believe that all children should be given the skills and knowledge to enable them to reach their full potential.

I am thoroughly enjoying this role and the challenges it brings. I have completed some training as well as a number of visits into school to enhance and further my understanding of how Barleyhurst Park is striving to achieve the best for all the pupils. These visits have included a tour of the school to see all classes in action, meetings to look at data and policies and also accompanying a school trip. I am enjoying working alongside the other Governors and the senior leadership team and have taken on the role of Chair for the Teaching and Learning committee and also Assessment Governor. In my spare time I enjoy spending quality time with my family, being outside visiting parks and exploring the local area, reading and cooking.

Barleyhurst Park Primary School

Headteacher – Mrs W Smith B.Ed. (Hons) NPQH