

# Update from the Southway Junior School Governors



The governors of Southway School would like to take the opportunity to introduce ourselves and tell you a little bit about what we do.

The role of the governors is to support the school, offer guidance, determine the strategy and make sure the School is being well run.

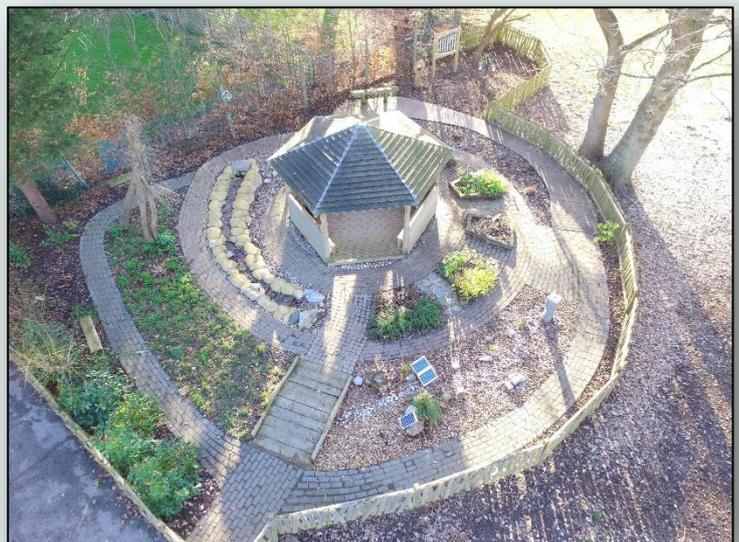
We are very fortunate at Southway to have an outstanding and hardworking team who manage & run the school under the leadership of Headteacher, Mr Newbold. Ensuring that we have a great leadership team at the school is a key role of the governors. We are also there to challenge and ensure the correct decisions are being taken in the best interests of the school.

The governing body comprises the Headteacher & Senior Leadership team, the parent governors & co-opted governors and we meet typically once per month. Each review meeting has a well-defined agenda and covers topics such as teaching quality, finance, policies, compliance, safety and improvement projects.

The parent governors are all volunteers & are not education professionals as we are not involved in the day to day management of the school; rather we have a range of experiences and expertise that contributes to good governance of the school.

Examples of what we do are to review:

- The school finances, checking that school financial position is secure and ensuring money is spent effectively
- Authorising spending for improvement projects to enhance the school environment and pupils learning experience
- Ensuring the quality of teaching and educational experience of the pupils is excellent
- Determining the strategy and direction of the school
- Oversee the vision and values that Southway stands for
- Staff recruitment
- Complaints
- Health and safety
- Safeguarding



### **Kieron Woodland – Chair of Governors**

I have been a governor for 5 years and have taken over the role as chair in September 2019. I have been a parent at Southway since 2013, with my 2 daughters at the school, my youngest is currently in year 6.

My responsibilities as the chair of governors is to ensure the smooth running of the governing body, to hold the school to account, to ensure the school is providing the best standard of education and each child has the opportunity to fulfil their potential and to help them grow in confidence through their educational journey.

I am immensely proud to represent the parents and children of our school and when I visit I am always impressed by the children's behaviour and attitude to learning. This was highlighted by the recent Ofsted inspection in July 2019.

"Pupils' personal development, welfare and behaviour are outstanding. Their behaviour in lessons and around the school site is truly impeccable. Pupils take their learning seriously and are superb ambassadors for the school." source Ofsted report, 2nd July 2019.

### **Mark Harding – Vice Chair of Governors & Local Authority Governor**



I joined the Board of Governors at Southway at the beginning of the 2017/18 academic year having taken early retirement. I was looking for something to keep my brain active whilst simultaneously contributing something to my local community. With my son teaching at another junior school in West Sussex I was led towards a governor role.

My particular responsibilities are as governor responsible for Data and also Quality of Education; both roles entail termly meetings with the Deputy Head and the Head Teacher respectively and provide an opportunity for me to raise questions directly with the senior leadership which I then write up as a report for the full governing body who have the opportunity then to question further as required.

### **Helen Lewis – Parent Governor**

I was elected as a Parent Governor in November 2017. My roles and responsibilities are - Policies and Website compliance, Maths Governor, Behaviour and Welfare, Complaints, Staff Recruitment, Training and the Appraisal and Pay Panels. I attend all the Governor committee meetings and school events, as well as making frequent monitoring visits to school, where I oversee maths tuition plus the behaviour and welfare of the children. I absolutely love seeing the impact of the work that we do as a Governing Body and am incredibly proud of our school.



My daughter is in Year 5 at Southway and I have a 20 year old son who works in the TV/Film industry. I have been an active parent helper at the Gattons since my daughter started in Reception and continue to help there and at Southway every week, as well as on school trips. I am on the Local Board at The Burgess Hill Academy so am fortunate enough to see the progress of our children from primary to secondary school. I read Law at the University of Bristol and have worked in Advertising and Law. I am a classical soprano and am passionate about all sorts of music. I am heavily involved in Girlguiding as a Brownies leader in Burgess Hill. I love to travel and keep fit...especially ultra-hiking.

### **Richard Harris – Parent Governor**



I joined the governing body in September 2018 when my daughter started at the school. As part of my duties, I have visited the English subject lead teacher to assess the schools relative learning package. My initial visit was in April 2019 and a further visit will be carried out soon.

In addition, I am the delegated Health and Safety Governor and have recently carried out a walk around the whole school to see every area that needs consideration.

### **Nick Winder – Parent Governor**

I was delighted to join the governing body in November 2019 as I wanted to contribute to the governing of the school and offer my experience as a Chartered Engineer, Manager and small business owner. I am very interested to learn from and work with the great team Southway has in place.

I have two children, my eldest son is at Southway and our youngest son is at nursery. I have a masters in Mechanical Engineering & a strong passion for science and engineering having spent my career working primarily in R&D as a consultant engineer in the automotive industry, working on a range of projects for many of the world's car companies.



I now work part time on our family business, a hair salon in central Brighton and also as a technical consultant and project manager at a new start-up company. In my spare time I enjoy cycling & motor sport.

Finally we would just like to say we look forward to meeting many of you at the upcoming Parent consultations next Monday or Thursday. You can spot us by the red lanyards we will be wearing so please don't hesitate to say hello and ask us any questions.