



GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

**SPRING
TERM
2020**
Page 1

Letter from the Chair

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely Christmas too. It feels like a long time ago now though. Last term we were very pleased to welcome Reverend Glenn on to the Board and he is often in school. We also had a second External Review of Governance which I thought I would use as the basis for this newsletter. An External Review of Governance is like an Ofsted for the Governing Board but which carried out by the local authority so it is much less stressful. I thought you would like to read the strengths reproduced below however they left us with some recommendations for further development which they will return to assess progress towards in February. I will tell you about the outcome of this next review in another newsletter around Easter.

- The Governing Board is committed and has acted upon the areas of improvement recommended at the previous Review of Governance.
- The Governing Board are proactive in reviewing the skills around the table and are able to identify areas that need strengthening.
- The Governing Board are supporting the Headteacher, who feels that Governors provide good challenge and questioning. Governors and the Headteacher feel that the relationship has strengthened, with all having clear expectations in each other's roles and what is required in terms of school leadership.
- The attendance of Governing Board members is very good with all Governors being aware of their role within respective Full Governing Board or Committee meetings. Meetings are now well managed with reports being received in advance and Governors being better prepared with questions.
- The Governing Board is committed to further developing their range of skills and is aware of the requirement to upskill and encourage members to undertake further training further.
- The Governing Board support the school leadership with a range of established collaborative working partnerships. Governors realise the future potential of sustaining and extending these links for themselves and the new Chair of Governors is very proactive in recognising this and providing opportunities.
- The Governing Board has acted responsively to the recommendations about how to effectively support and challenge the school. There is clear evidence that the Standards Committee provide rigorous and robust challenge. Governors recognise the need to be more involved in the School Development Plan process.
- They have developed a Governor Development Plan to run alongside the School Development Plan and have developed their skills in how to effectively assess the impact of the School Development Plan on the progress evident within the school. Governors recognise the improvements still required and are honest in their conversations.
- Governors are aware of the school data and are able to communicate the strengths and areas of improvement required, especially in terms of vulnerable groups and attendance. They are able to talk with confidence about the Quality of Teaching and the support that is in place.
- Governors feel confident in both challenging and supporting the new leadership within the school. They both welcome and recognise the drive from the Headteacher in leading the school forward and are able to acknowledge that more engagement with the community is required in order to support the Headteacher with the vision of the school moving forward.
- The Governing Board have made significant improvement over the last year and are able to articulate fully their areas of strength or areas to improve. There is clear evidence of their commitment to strengthening their processes and procedures in ensuring strategic practice moving forward into the future.
- The strength of how the school meets the requirements of its Voluntary Aided Foundation is clearly evident and Governors reflect this requirement within their work.

In September the Chair and Vice Chair attended update training with the teachers on Safeguarding given by the Local Authority and during the Autumn Term, governors visited school on 8 different occasions to monitor priorities on the School Development Plan. The focus of these visits included monitoring the standard of writing across school; observing Read, Write Inc lessons, including interviewing pupils and staff; monitoring learning environments; monitoring subject leadership and attending training organised for teachers regarding effective subject leadership. As well as attending full governing body meetings and committee meetings, part of the role of being a school governor is visiting school to find out information for themselves and not just relying on information provided by Senior Leaders.

Last term we also collected the views of the children at parents evening. Mr Swift has been busy answering the questions that the children raised and is preparing a response which children will receive soon. As you can see from one of the bullet points above we want to work more closely with the community. This is because it is very important that the school reflects your views in how it educates your children. We are making plans to ensure we find out about your view. In the meantime I welcome any comments or suggestions to my e-mail which is hillingp@alverthorpestpauls.co.uk.

Best Wishes,

Pauline Hilling-Smith
Chair of Governors



GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

Governor Roles

Two of our current governors, Lucy Riley and David Marshall, both applied for our Parent Governor vacancies. Because these were the only applicants, there is no need for a vote and they will move from their current positions to be our Parent Governors. David has supported governors with Health and Safety and risk management and Lucy is our current Training Governor and ensures that governors are fully trained in their roles.

Angela Binns, who is currently one of our Parent Governors, will move to Associate Governor once her term of office comes to an end at the end of January. Angela is a vital member of our governors and we are happy that she will become an Associate Governor until her daughter leaves us in July.

Because of these movements, we have a vacancy for an LA governor. The Local Authority try and fill this role on our behalf. There is also a vacancy for a Foundation Governor.

Governor Calendar

Date	Event
28/01/20	Full Governors Meeting
03/03/20	Resources Committee Meeting
06/03/20	Standards Committee Meeting
17/03/20	Full Governors Meeting
28/04/20	Resources Committee Meeting
01/05/20	Standards Committee Meeting
06/05/20	SIAMS Committee Meeting
12/05/20	Full Governors Meeting
23/06/20	Resources Committee Meeting
03/07/20	Standards Committee Meeting
07/07/20	Full Governors Meeting

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

Governor Profile

Lucy Riley – current Foundation Governor but transferring to Parent Governor at the end of January.

My son is currently in Year 5 at St Paul's. I have run my own catering company for 17 years and am therefore experienced in finance management and people skills etc. Prior to starting my business, I worked in health and social care, working with people with Autism, learning difficulties and challenging behaviour in a school environment.

I have been a governor at school for 1 year. I have completed lots of training, including new governor training; handling complaints; governors' statutory responsibility for children in care, parental engagement and grievance and disciplinary.

Governing Body 2019/2020

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