

Bury CE Primary School

Governor Newsletter

Autumn 2019



Welcome to our Governor's newsletter. Its purpose is to keep you informed of the work of the Local Governing Body (LGB) in support of the school. The LGB currently consists of:

Foundation Governors

Mr John Hayes (Chair)
Mr Roger Taylor
Mrs Rebecca Orpwood-Price
Mr Peter Buxton
Mr Peter Hazell (Vice Chair)
Mr Stephen Cullen
Mrs Fiona Cameron
Mrs Maria Pidoux

Ex-Officio Governors

Reverend Garry Dawson-Jones
Miss Emma Heanes (Headteacher)

Parent Governors

(elected by other parents)
Mrs Bethan Vaghela

Staff Governor

Mrs Nicola Beeston

Clerk to the Governors

Mrs Jan Galloway

This past year has been a mix of successes and challenges for both the governors and the staff. One of the challenges has been to meet the financial requirements of a balanced budget to be agreed by DEMAT. A low intake of children two years ago has reduced our income whilst our costs have in the main increased. This has resulted in some cutbacks and also the use of some of our reserves in order to produce a three year budget. This has been accepted by DEMAT. There are still ongoing concerns about the required roof repairs which we trust will be completed before the end of the Autumn term. As yet we have not been advised of what, if any, contribution the school will have to make.

Some staff enjoyed new challenges as they were allocated to new year groups. Mrs Coulston is currently on maternity leave and gave birth to a boy. Mrs Case was appointed as maternity cover in Year One and has settled in well. Mrs Summerell and Mrs Bowen retired at the end of the school year. We are grateful for their contribution to the school over many years and wish them well. Mr Glozier has been appointed as the new Year 6 teacher. Miss Scotney married in June and became Mrs Brandon. Mr Westcott married in August. We wish both couples long and happy futures.

The role of Bury School governors is to encourage, challenge and support the whole school to maintain and improve high standards and have a desire to be part of the team that seeks to see our children achieve the best they can during their time at Bury School. We meet as a full governing body each half term to discuss the work in the school. We are encouraged to attend training to enable us to work effectively in our roles.

The Head, staff and governors were again delighted with the results from the SATS tests as the level reached was above the national average. We anticipate an OFSTED visit in the near future and trust that this good work and progress will reflect the decision they make. As part of DEMAT we receive regular review visits to check on our progress and to offer support to the head and staff.

If you speak to any of the governors I am sure that they will say that the work is very rewarding. Governors are linked with year groups, make visits to the school and work alongside the class teachers. There is currently a Parent Governor vacancy if you think you may be interested please contact the school.

John Hayes
Chairman

Fiona Cameron

Parent of 2 children currently Y4 and Y2 at Bury school. My "day job" is a Recruitment Partner for a large Global PLC.

Our current Chair, approached me to join the Governors in 2016. I had been working closely with John and the school in my position as Chair of Bury Playgroup Committee. I was eager to have the opportunity to become more involved with the school my children attended.

My work with Bury Playgroup has equipped me very well for my role as Governor and introduced me to the Education and Early Years Education system. I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with the staff of Bury School and contribute to the excellent work they all do.

The staff work very hard, reflect often, and constantly strive to improve the way the school nurtures and supports our children.

Stephen Cullen

My son previously attended Bury and my daughter is currently in Year 3. They have both enjoyed the friendly, inclusive and caring nature of the school.

During my time as governor, I have been Chair of the Standards Committee, Governor linked to Maths and Year 5.

I have lived in Bury for the last 15 years and enjoy the community spirit, which is why I have enjoyed being a governor and contributing to the local community.

Peter Hazell

I moved to Bury from Stilton with my wife and two children over 40 years ago. Both children attended Bury School and my wife became a governor (manager as they were then called) at the school. I was a biology lecturer at Huntingdon Technical College and after several promotions finished up as an assistant principal with responsibility for all aspects of student life at the college.

After retirement I was invited to become a governor at Bury school some 14/15 years ago. I enjoy the position very much, and make frequent visits to the school throughout the year. My specific role as a governor is all aspects relating to Health & Safety and the safeguarding of the children at school.

Rebecca Orpwood-Price

I have been a governor at Bury School for ten years. Having been appointed as a Foundation Governor when my daughter was in Reception class. My youngest child left Bury School this Summer.

As a professional teacher I have a passion for education and in my years as a school governor I have taken an interest in the strategic direction of the school. As an English specialist I have followed the developments within the English curriculum at primary level with great interest over the years.

Bethan Vaghela

I have been a parent governor since 2017. My attraction to being a governor stemmed from having a vested interest in the future of the school as both my children start on their school education.

Just like every parent at Bury C of E School, I want the very best for my children, hence I can always bring a parents perspective to every meeting.

My career as an audit manager provides me with analytical, reasoning and financial skills which are also very useful in my governor role.

I fully support the school, staff and children and their passion for providing the children with a happy, safe and enriching environment where they can be inspired to learn.

Maria Pidoux

I have been a governor for the past year and a half. This is a new responsibility for me and I am enjoying developing my role. This also gives me the opportunity to visit the school and meet staff and children and offer support. My background is in education. I have a BSc in geography and a teaching certificate. My husband who was in the Royal Air Force moved to many postings and so as a family we went with him this enabled me to teach for 39 years in a variety of locations both in the UK and abroad. This experience enriched my teaching.

I am a Christian and attend Holy Cross Church in Bury. I am also a member of the WI and Bury Garden show. I believe it is important to give something back to the community you live in.

Nicola Beeston

I am currently the Year 3 teacher at Bury School and have taught here at Bury CE Primary School for four years. I have taught for over 20 years across a range of schools in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and across all year groups from Foundation Stage to Year 6. Prior to having my children, I was part of the senior leadership team at William Law CE Primary School, a large primary school in Peterborough, leading Early Years Education and Mathematics across the school. Having grown-up in the village and with established links to the community, I am fiercely passionate about working at Bury School and being part of a caring team that provides the best possible outcomes for all of the children in our care.

Peter Buxton

I have been a foundation governor now for over seven years, and above all it continues to be a privilege to see the children all the way through from Reception to Year six. Currently I have a governor responsibility for monitoring Science and Computing, and have previously focussed on English. Both my daughters attended Bury School.

Roger Taylor

My three children attended Bury school and, having been involved with youth work at Bury church and as leader for ten years of residential ventures for teenagers with a national church charity I was pleased to assist when asked with school residential and other visits.

I was appointed a governor in 2010 and, as an accountant I have been involved in scrutiny of the financial performance and budgets of the school. I have continued to help with various activities both residential and in school. As a link governor I visited my first link cohort throughout their time in the school from Reception through to them leaving at the end of Year 6 in the 2019 Summer term. I am now link governor for the current Year 5.

I am a member of Bury Church and a Church Warden and a lay leader. I lead the First Bite team which meets in the school on the third Sunday of each month and am keen to help develop the church / school links and help maintain the Christian values and church school ethos which contributes to the special atmosphere in Bury school.

Garry Dawson-Jones

As the Rector of Bury Parish Church I have the privilege of being one of the Ex-Officio Governors of Bury School. We are so very fortunate and blessed to have such a great school with a caring staff and it is a joy to have increasingly growing links with the school. In recent months the 4Parishes launched an Open the Book (OtB) team who now go into Bury School to read and act out stories from the Lion Storyteller Bible as part of collective worship.

There is a very special atmosphere in Bury School which I put down to the compassionate nature of all the staff and the Christian ethos and values which are evident at the heart of the school. I want to do all I can to encourage that. As a parent, I want my sons to go through life knowing that there is a God who is real, who loves them and who celebrates them. I want them to know that living a Christian life is not about keeping rules and regulations, but about a relationship with the living God who has made himself known to the world through Jesus. If my sons were young enough to go to Bury School, I know they would find this here.

Finally...

We hope that you have found this letter informative and we would welcome any feedback that you might be able to offer. As Governors we thank you for your support of the school and look forward to this continuing. Thank you also to all the Governors for the work that they do throughout the year.