

Greenfields Primary School

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

September 2017



The Governing Body is pleased to bring you this Governors' Newsletter which is part of our plan to strengthen the communication and links between governors, staff, parents and children. We will aim to publish a newsletter at the beginning of each school year. In addition to this, the Governors' page on the school website includes information about the team members and their various responsibilities.

to foster an ethos of continuous improvement. Our role is to look at the strategic level of issues without interfering with day-to-day operational matters which are the responsibility of the headteacher and her senior leadership team.

Most governors are allocated additional link roles to focus on specific issues, such as safeguarding and curriculum topics. You can see the allocation of link roles on the website.

Governor Training

Governors have access to a number of training courses provided within the county of Hertfordshire. These include specific aspects of governance such as finance as well as broader courses such as 'Governor Induction', which all new governors are required to attend.

What is a Governor?

Governors are a group of volunteers who include parents, staff and members of our local community. Our main role is to support improvements in standards throughout the school. We help the headteacher and staff to plan the school's long-term direction, to evaluate progress, and set the school's aims and values.

Many of our responsibilities carry a statutory requirement, which means that we are obliged, by law, to do things such as agree the annual budget and assure that requirements for safeguarding and health and safety are in place.

Our role is sometimes described as a 'critical friend'. This does not mean that we are there to just criticize. Instead we try to ask useful questions and challenge to gain a greater understanding of the school, and

Governor Meetings

At Greenfields the governors meet as a Governing Body only, with no sub-committees. This of course means the meeting agenda needs to cover the full range of governance topics. The meetings take place twice per term and, in the interests of openness, the minutes are published on the school website.



The Governors' Cup for Good Citizenship

The governors have recently introduced a new and prestigious award for children who consistently demonstrate exemplary conduct and behaviour and, as such, act as role models for other children across the school. The cup will be awarded termly and is open to all the children. Nominations will be made by the class teachers for consideration by the Governing Body.



Key Issues

Key current issues for the Governing Body include the following:

- Recruiting and retaining teachers, which is a reflection of a nationwide shortage problem. An increasing trend for teachers to request part-time working further adds to this challenge.
- The government's plan to provide 30 hours free childcare per week to families where both parents work.
- Modifications and upgrading to the school's premises and equipment. Budget constraints inevitably mean that capital and maintenance spending need to be strictly prioritized. Further complications arise due to the Grade II listed status of the school which places limits on the nature and degree of external changes permitted by Historic England.

How to Contact Governors

We are always happy to receive constructive feedback and comments from parents, for example by dropping a note into the school office. Alternatively, the current Chair of Governors, David Ray, is in the school all day every Friday and would be pleased to meet for a chat.



Paige Marshall receiving the first Governors' Cup from the Chair