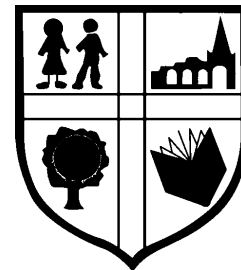


Governor Newsletter



BUILDING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Date: 7th December 2016

St Chad's C.E. Primary School

Message from Chair of Governors

The last parents' questionnaire revealed that many of you were uncertain as to who the governors of the school actually were, their function and how to communicate with them. This newsletter sets out to address these questions.

The Governing Board consists of the following: Mr I Sharp (Chair), Mr D Humphries (Vice Chair), Rev S Boxall (Vicar of Holy Trinity), Mrs D Walker, Mr P Stanier-Filip, Mr A Hulme, Mr C Higginson, Mrs J Marshall, Miss S Clarke (Headteacher) and Miss M Steele. Mr Hobson is an associate (non-voting member). Contrary to popular belief, the role of the governing body is not to run the school, as the day to day running is delegated to the Headteacher and her senior colleagues. The governing board meets regularly and there are various governor committees which oversee the general running of the school and also specific areas such as the planning and delivery of the curriculum, monitoring pupils' progress, scrutinising the school's finances and ensuring that pupils are fully safeguarded and that Health and Safety protocols are being followed. Governors are also involved with making staff appointments and setting salaries.

Generally if parents experience any problems they should seek to resolve them by contacting the Headteacher. However, very occasionally some circumstances may arise when parents may wish to contact governors directly, after first speaking to the Headteacher. I am easily contacted by outlining any query in a short letter addressed to the school office. Also an email to the office@st-chads-newcastle.staffs.sch.uk and marked for the attention of the Chair of Governors will be quickly passed to me.

I hope that this brief letter will increase your understanding of the governing board. **Mr I Sharp** (Chair of Governors)

Parent Forum

The Parent Forum is run by Mrs Marshall and myself, Dave Humphries (Vice Chair). Over the past few years we have had a small but very proactive turn out. We have discussed many points e.g., school uniforms, lunchtime menus, and homework. We are always keen for new parents to come along, meetings are held termly and it is an opportunity for school, parents and governors to get together and constructively talk about the issues of the moment from both a school and parents' perspective **Mr D Humphries** (Vice Chair)

BRITISH VALUES

Individual Liberty
 The rule of Law
 Democracy
 Mutual Respect
Tolerance

The Role of a Governor

I first became a governor in 2010 thinking that with a finance background (as I am an accountant) that I would be able to assist in school decisions and in general I wanted to become 'part of the school in which my children were attending'.

I am currently on three committees—Staffing & Finance, Curriculum and Outcomes. I have found the Outcomes committee to be particularly interesting and useful as we review school data and look how this data can be used to further improve the school.

The Staffing and Finance side of the school is particularly challenging as this has a direct impact on both the education of the children and the welfare of the school staff, but decisions are made with the best interests of the children, given the funds that are available to the school.

Being a governor is a commitment; in addition to the termly meetings there is at least one committee meeting per term. It can be interesting and rewarding to join the school's leadership team in a meeting so that one can see exactly how the school is run and how decisions are made. This is a commitment I do not take lightly but I enjoy it as well, particularly in seeing what a great school and environment our children are taught in. **Mr Colin Higginson**

Who appoints Governors?

Headteacher—Miss S Clarke
 Local Authority—Mr D Humphries
 Staff —Miss M Steele
 Parents —Mr A Hulme/Mr P Stanier-Filip
 Foundation/Church— Rev S Boxall (ex.officio) Mr I Sharp, Mrs D Walker
 Co-opted—Mrs J Marshall/Mr C Higginson
 Associate—Mr E Hobson (non-voting)
 The Governors elect their Chair & Vice Chair annually

The life of the school

In order to make informed decisions governors need to involve themselves as fully as possible in the life of the school. The Chair has weekly meetings with the Headteacher, attends assemblies and many other school activities. Mr Humphries runs the Parent Forum and Rev Boxall takes assemblies. Many governors assist on school trips and the Chair recently spent a night under canvas with the year three Base Camp. However education is continually evolving and we rely upon the advice from the Local Authority and other professional sources plus of course the Headteacher and her senior colleagues.

SCHOOL VALUES

HONESTY COMMITMENT
RESPECT EMPATHY
 KINDNESS
BELONGING *INDEPENDENCE*

Our school website is: www.st-chads-newcastle.staffs.sch.uk

A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE