

Shire Oak C of E VC Primary School

Governors' Newsletter Autumn 2018

Welcome to the annual update from the members of the Shire Oak Governing Body. We use this newsletter to keep you informed about our membership and activities.

Who we are

The Governing Body is made up of local community representatives, Foundation (Church) Governors appointed by the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales, parent/carers, Local Authority Governors, teachers and the Head Teacher. For our 2017-18 Governors, please see the box below.

What we do

The Governing Body's priority is to make things as good as they can be for the children of Shire Oak. Our activities are organised with this overall aim in mind. We come together as a whole and in smaller sub-committees to look at different aspects of school life: academic achievement and progress, the curriculum, behaviour and attendance, the wider school community and the school budget. We gather together evidence about what is happening in school and review and monitor it, asking questions about how things are done and what can be done to make things better.

Our priorities for the 2018-19 school year:

- **Writing**

Governors are monitoring the ways in which the school is working on improving the teaching and learning of writing. We are also monitoring the ways in which initiatives to improve children's spelling are being embedded throughout the school.

- **Greater depth and academically vulnerable children**

The Governing Body monitors the attainment and progress of all children at Shire Oak so that they achieve as well as they can. We continue to act on the need for a larger number of children to demonstrate an understanding at greater depth, as identified at our last Ofsted inspection. We also analyse anonymised case studies to understand the needs of the most academically vulnerable children, to ensure their progress is as good as it can be during their time at the school.

- **Reading**

Governors are also monitoring children's reading at the school, particularly in terms of reading comprehension, and looking to see how improvements have been embedded.

Regular activities

There are lots of things that the Governing Body has to look at regularly. These include health and safety at the school, safeguarding, the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, the school's website, policies, and values, as well as taking part in the performance management of the Head Teacher and sitting on appointments panels. Governors also meet with representatives from the Joint Headingley and Horsforth Children's Centre and Headingley Pre-School. All of these activities take place during the school year according to a schedule of meetings. As Governors we spend a lot of time examining and revising school documents, to make sure they best reflect the current situation at the school and the needs of its children. We also keep up-to-date with developments in Government education policy and adapt what the school is doing accordingly.

Parent surveys

We were very pleased to see a large number of parent surveys returned in the summer in comparison to previous years, a total of 87 representing 127 children, equivalent to almost two-thirds of the children in the school. Responses were largely positive, with 88% of parents agreeing that their child or children liked going to school and 86% agreeing that it is a 'good school'. 90% also agreed that the school is 'well led and managed'. Some of the areas where parents were less sure included understanding the termly progress reports and the homework given to children. Parents were also invited to comment on what they liked best about the school, and the range of responses to this demonstrated the school's wide appeal to a broad and diverse local community.

Membership news

At the start of the new school year in September we said goodbye to some of our Governors and welcomed new ones. Helen Pickles and Janet Earl have both stepped down from the Governing Body, while Heather Flanagan's retirement has meant that she will no longer serve as the Staff Governor. We've all been hugely grateful for their contributions to Governor activity and will miss their insights and energy. Ann Dudzinski has come to the end of her term as a Foundation Governor, but will continue to act as an Associate Governor. We're also delighted to welcome new Governors: Jan Kramer has joined us as Foundation Governor, while Sapna Gadaria has become a new Parent Governor. Antonia Nicholls, who has already been contributing to the work of the Governing Body as Associate Governor, is a new Co-opted Governor.

Join us!

If you are a member of the local community or a parent/carer at the school, and would be interested in becoming a Governor, please talk to us. Our roles are challenging but very rewarding, and we all take a real pride in serving our school.

The Shire Oak Governing Body 2017-18

Reverend Tony Whatmough (Foundation Governor)
Ann Dudzinski (Foundation Governor)
Julia Kelly (Parent Governor, Chair)
Sadie Alton (Parent Governor)
Anna Swinburn (Parent Governor)
Helen Pickles (Parent Governor)
Councillor Neil Walshaw (LA Governor)
Sally Dyster (Co-Opted Governor)
Gill Eastabrook (Co-Opted Governor, Vice-Chair)
Dick Killington (Co-Opted Governor)
Janet Earl (Co-Opted Governor)
Heather Flanagan (Staff Governor)
Jane Astrid Devane (Head Teacher)
Marcelle Maver (Deputy Head, Associate Member)
Antonia Nicholls (Associate Governor)

shireoakgovernors@gmail.com



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Governor Attendance Record 2017-18

	Enter each meeting date in the boxes available below						
	25/09/2017	27/11/2017	29/01/2018	26/03/2018	21/05/2018	09/07/2018	
Ms Jane Astrid Devane	/	/	/	/	/	/	
Ms Sadie Alton	/	A	/	/	A	/	
Mrs Ann Dudzinski	/	/	/	/	/	/	
Ms Sally Dyster	A	/	/	/	/	A	
Ms Julia Kelly	/	/	/	/	/	A	
Ms Janet Earl	/	/	A	A	/	A	
Ms Gill Eastabrook	/	/	/	/	/	/	
Ms Heather Flanagan	A	A	/	/	/	/	
Mr Richard Killington	/	/	/	/	/	A	
Mrs Helen Pickles	/	/	A	/	A	/	
Mrs Anna Swinburn	/	/	/	/	/	/	
Cllr Neil Walshaw	/	A	/	X	/	X	
Rev Tony Whatmough	/	A	A	/	/	/	
M Maver	/	/	/	/	A	/	
Antonia Nicholls	-	-	First meeting /	/	/	/	