



# HOOK JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Governor Newsletter: September 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new academic year. I hope your children have settled well into the new term and you are back into the routine. The children have certainly looked smart and ready to learn when I've seen them on their way to school.

The Governing body have now had their first meeting of the academic year and confirmed our roles and responsibilities for the next three terms. In this newsletter I've summarised the role of the governing body and outlined who the current School Governors are.

We will shortly be sending you a short survey about governor communications. This will only take a few minutes to fill in so please respond if you can, and let us know if there is anything in particular you want to hear about in our newsletters.

Role of the governing body

*The Board of governors is key to ensuring the effectiveness of the School.*

There are three core functions of the governing body:

### **Setting the strategic direction**

We work closely with the senior leadership team to help set the School's aims and objectives. We will set policies, formulate plans and review the impact these have and the progress the school is making.

### **Creating robust accountability**

School governors act as a sounding board for ideas and second opinions, offer both challenge and support to the school, and hold the school to account for the quality of education it provides.

### **Overseeing financial performance**

Governors review the 3 year financial plan and annual budget and make sure its money is well spent.

### **Your governors**

The governing body is made up of a mixture of staff, parent and co-opted (members of the community appointed by the other governors) governors. It is a voluntary role filled by people passionate about having a positive impact on the lives of local children and the community.

We all attend governor meetings three times a term and therefore have a chance to contribute to all aspects of the governing body duties. Please see below for a brief introduction to each of the current governors and our key responsibilities for the year ahead.

**Teri Viney – Co-opted governor.** Elected by the governing body to bring financial experience to the board I will continue to lead the financial aspects this year and have taken over the role of Chair of Governors this

term. I look forward to visiting more often this year as it is always a pleasure for governors to see the children learning, playing and developing their skills when we visit.

**Gassan Shaladan – Parent governor.** Gassan has recently joined us with several years' experience as safeguarding governor at another school. Gassan works for Thames Valley Police and is our vice chair of governors.

**Steve Parker – Parent governor.** Steve is our lead safe-guarding governor and his work in the police force brings excellent external insight here.

**Clare Walker – Parent governor.** A deputy head teacher and governor at another school Clare is our SEND governor, leading on matters relating to special educational needs and disabilities.

**Justin Scobie - Parent governor.** Justin has been our lead contact with the school on health and safety for several years now, his past experience as Head of Science in several schools is helpful here and his role as teacher at another school brings valuable insight to the governing body more widely.

**Paul Lock – Local authority governor.** With many years' experience as a governor, Paul has stepped back from the chair and safeguarding roles this term to help provide wider support and development for our newer governors.

**Darren Myles – Co-opted governor.** Having completed his 4 year term as a parent governor, the governors have recently voted to re-elect Darren as a co-opted governor for another term. As a previous chair of the Hook Junior School Governors he has valuable insight to bring to our meetings. He will chair our pay committee this term, link with the school on GDPR as well as supporting curriculum areas.

**Lynn McCulloch - Co-opted governor.** Lynn has a background in HR and has been a governor at another school. Bringing experience of strategic leadership in both the business and educational sectors, Lynn will support on several of our functions this year.

**Arabella Bakker - Co-opted governor.** Arabella is our development and training governor, sign posting us towards training courses to support our individual development as governors (there is lots of support available to help you learn in the role when you become a governor!) and also leads us on our communication plan.

**Lynn Martin – Head Teacher.** Mrs Martin brings extensive expertise from teaching and leading schools and also as an Ofsted inspector.

**Nicci Bailey – staff governor.** Mrs Bailey brings insight from the staff point of view as well as from the senior leadership team. Nicci will be working with several of the non-staff governors to look at the curriculum and build links with the wider community and school alumni.

**Jo Carne – associate governor.** Miss Carne does not have voting rights but brings valuable knowledge from her role as Inclusion Leader.

The governors bring a wide range of skills and expertise from their personal and professional lives but above all we are here to help the school to provide the best possible education for its pupils and to enable all children who attend to thrive and achieve high standards academically, socially and personally.

We currently have vacancies for two co-opted governors. We would love to hear from anyone who is keen to get involved and feels they have something to bring to the board either now or in the future. At this time we are particularly interested in anyone, including school staff, with experience in finance or charitable sectors or estate management. If you are interested please get in contact via the School office and I'd be happy to tell you more about it in the first instance.

Best wishes,

Teri Viney

Chair of Governors