












Governor Newsletter

Spring Term, 2019



Governors have had another very busy term and we hope that through our newsletters you can gain a greater understanding of who we are as Governors, our main responsibilities and the ongoing activities, collaboration and monitoring that we carry out in our role. Below is a list of our current Governors - you can find a list of their roles and responsibilities on our school website:

Little Waltham School Governing Body			
			
Jon Tredwell Foundation Governor	Hugh Godfrey Foundation Governor	Dave Howatson Foundation Governor	Martin Gandy Foundation Governor
			
Diane Regan Foundation Governor	Joanne Young Foundation Governor	Tony Moxham Parent Governor	Kristy Rosam Parent Governor
			
Rev Sandra Sykes Incumbent Ex-Officio	Elizabeth Maycock Headteacher Ex-Officio	Ruth Baker Staff Governor	

The Governing Body's main aim is to help raise standards of achievement and make sure the school provides high quality education. The day-to-day management of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher. Rather than manage, governors are there to help shape the school's future direction and focus. We set the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction, we hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent to ensure the best outcomes possible for every child.

Proposed Federation Update

As you know, Liz Maycock has been acting as interim Executive Head at Ford End for nearly 2 years now and, since the turn of the year, governors have been actively exploring the option of forming a formal federation of our two schools. A Steering Group, comprising governors and staff from both schools, has met a number of times to discuss and agree various aspects relating to federation, e.g. the nature of the federation, the leadership structure and the composition of the federation governing body, ahead of both schools entering a consultation period with all stakeholders. This will include a parent-governor meeting to enable you to discuss the federation with Governors and allow us to answer any questions that you may have.

Communication

As a Governing Body we are keen to receive feedback from parents. In recent years our parent-governor meetings have been poorly attended and so we were keen to find out when you would prefer these meetings to be held. A questionnaire was sent out to parents asking you when would be the best time to hold our parent-governor meetings. We received just 6 responses, but these suggested the early evening (around 6-7pm) as being the best time to meet. Unfortunately, our meeting this term had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, but we are planning to re-schedule one for the summer term – please do come along and share your views about our school and find out more about the proposed federation between Little Waltham school and Ford End school.

Your Views

Our annual parent questionnaire will be sent out early next term and is yet another vital tool for Governors to appraise what progress is being made across all aspects of school life - the feedback we receive will be shared in our next newsletter. We would be grateful if you could complete our questionnaire and let us know your views to help us shape the future of Little Waltham school.

Governor Monitoring Visits

Governors continue to monitor all aspects of school life to ensure progress is being made against school objectives and educational expectations. Safeguarding, health and safety, Christian ethos, educational standards and the school budget are just some of the areas governors regularly monitor to ensure that high standards are being maintained. Governors carry out regular monitoring visits and have recently visited all classes throughout the school for a Maths morning, an English morning and an RE afternoon to gather evidence through looking at the children's books and talking to staff and pupils.

Enjoy the Easter break

The Governing Body continues to recognise the valuable contributions made to our school by so many volunteers and helpers as well as all the pupils, staff and parents/carers. Thank you to everyone who continues to give their time and support to our school. We also wish everyone a wonderful Easter with family and friends.

Kind Regards,

The Governing Body