

Volume 1 | Issue 1  
July 2016

**Saughall All Saints C of E Primary School**  
**Governors Newsletter**



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***We are delighted  
to bring you our  
first governor's  
newsletter***

### **Message from the governors**

Welcome to the very first governor newsletter. It has been our aim to improve communication between the governors and our staff, parents and children. Hopefully this will go some way to meet part of this objective. Through these newsletters, we plan to share who we are and what we as governors have been involved in over the last term.

Just like all of you, we have a vested interest in our amazing school. Our board consists of parents, staff, and representatives from the church diocese and from the local authority. Many of these governors have been involved with both the school and the local parish community for a great number of years and have done a fine job in supporting our excellent team of teaching and support staff in the creation of an engaging and delightful school. We also have a new group of governors who have found the experience extremely satisfying and a huge learning curve. I think we can safely say that the challenges facing schools, their teachers and the management teams are significant and ever changing and that we appreciate the hard work that our colleagues with in the school undertake.

As this is our first newsletter, we have included a list of our names and the type of governor we are. We will keep these up to date on the governor section of the website in future.

### **Who's who?**

Parent Governors	Mrs Amanda French (Chair), Mr Darren Andrews, Mrs Sharon Beddows, Mr David Walsh, Mrs Kirsty Hackett
Foundation Governors	Mr Julian Annison (Vice-Chair), Rev. David Nugent, Mrs Carol Lewis
Staff Governors	Mrs Donna Prenton (Head Teacher), Mrs Diane Bloomfield
Co-opted Governor	Mrs Gemma Cook, Mrs Melanie Peters, Mrs Kay Parry, Mrs Andra Roberts, Mr Peter Young.
LA Governor	Vacant

### **OFSTED**

We were inspected by both OFSTED and the church OFSTED, this term. After receiving a rather surprising outcome from the OFSTED inspection, there has been much activity within the school to address some of the issues that the inspection highlighted. You will have received a copy of the action plan from the school and will continue to receive regular updates via the school website.

We have, as part of these actions, involved external bodies to assist in the delivery of these actions and we are very pleased to note that they have been very supportive of the school team, the staff and of the current teaching provision. They have also been very positive regarding the changing being introduced by the school. It was very clear from the inspection that there were some extremely impressive highlights and we will continue to build on those positives. 2016/17 will be focusing on further development and the continuation of existing progress towards improvement targets identified in the OFSTED report. The church OFSTED report was highly complimentary of the school and children with recommendations regarding collective worship which will be part of any curriculum changes.

## **Schools Financial Value Standards (SFVS)**

Every year we evaluate and monitor the schools financial service system. As governors, we are responsible for achieving best value for money from the public funding used to enable the school to operate effectively. We are now required to complete self-assessment forms to provide evidence of our controls and monitoring systems, and these have been successfully completed.

## **Governor Training**

We are in the process of reviewing the governor skills audit which will identify our strengths and areas for development in terms of key skills identified by the National Governors Association. This year's skills audit will be more rigorous. We have already undertaken a significant amount of training in areas such as induction, PREVENT (national programme supporting the care of vulnerable children) data analysis for governors, strategic awareness and effective governance, financial management and diversity awareness.

## **Governor Audit**

We were audited as a governing body as a result of a recommendation from OFSTED. We are awaiting the results although initial feedback seems positive. Once we have the full report, we will be developing a governance action plan, along the lines of the school action plan, which will reveal the school priorities and strategic direction in the next newsletter.

## **Chair of governors recent visit**

“On Monday 20th June I had the opportunity to have lunch with the children. Although personally I was apprehensive about carrying my tray across the hall it was an uplifting and educational experience. I received a very warm welcome from over a dozen children and it helped me to further appreciate how confident they are. There was great enthusiasm expressed for favourite lessons across the whole curriculum; geography, PE, art and maths were mentioned the most and I learned about the four layers within the rainforest. When the delicious lunch was finished I was provided with clear and concise instructions for the return of my utensils to the trolleys, further highlighting the sense of pride in their surroundings. It served as a good reminder of the reason why we are all committed to the school and how well rounded and happy the children are.”

## **The Future**

All in all there are still a number of challenges ahead. Changes in curriculum, testing and government focus bring about new ideas and different targets. It appears that, in education, things never stand still. We hope that, as governors, we can provide the right support for the school to help them to further develop. We hope this means that no matter what changes are thrown into the education system, we are able to provide support to the school to offer the best of opportunities for our children.

**Good luck to all of our year 6 leavers; we wish you every success in the future. Have a wonderful break and we will see you in September.**