



DOWNVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

November 2016

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome to a new school year, and a warm welcome to all our new families throughout the school. Hopefully you have all settled into the new term, I cannot believe we have had half term already.

For those new to Downview I would like to introduce ourselves and tell you a little about what we do. However, before I do that I would like to say a tremendous thank you and farewell to Mrs Eileen Lord, (Co-opted Governor) who left us at the end of July. Many thanks also go to David Evans (Parent Governor) who left at the beginning of the school year and a warm welcome to Mrs Hazel Jones who joined us on 1st September as a Co-Opted Governor.



The Governing Body consists of 11 members made up as follows:

Chair of Governors	Mrs Sue Hawthorn (Co-opted)
Head Teacher	Mrs Mandy Williams (Staff)
Staff Governors	Mr James Martin, Mrs I. Hellyer and Mrs Jess Twine
Parent Governors	Mr Anthony Holland, Mr Phil Nicholas plus one vacancy
Co-Opted Governors	Mrs Hazel Jones and Mr Chris Pacey
Local Authority Governor	Mrs Val Morris
Secretary to Governors	Mrs Janet Ramsdale

As you are all aware we have currently recruited two new Parent Governors, Mr Owen Costen and Mrs Laura Farrant, who will be in place for our next full governing body meeting on 8th December. A big thank you to them for putting themselves forward for this role. All the Governors would like to welcome them on board and are looking forward to working with them.

Are you interested in becoming a Governor?

We have discussed succession planning for the Governing Body recently and during this school year we will be looking for people who are interested in becoming a Governor at the school. We are looking for people who may have a range of transferable work skills that can add value to our 'team'. By the end of this school year we would like to have in place one further Parent Governors as both Mr Holland and Mr Nicholas's terms of office come to an end on 1st September 2017. If you are interested please visit the Downview Website and you will find under the Governors Section a heading for "Governor Recruitment", please click there for further details.

What do the Governors actually do?

Governors are meant to be (says the Department for Education) "critical friends". Governors "provide challenge and support". It all sounds a bit abstract, so here is what governors actually do.

All Governors meet twice a term, at Full Governing Body (FGB) Meetings. There are smaller meetings where five or six governors meet to talk about a part of the work, these Committee meetings take place once a term. The areas of work are:

- ❖ Learning and teaching; the children's progress, their results and their work
- ❖ The well-being of all the children and all the staff
- ❖ Land and buildings, and the health and safety of everyone in the school
- ❖ And, as you would expect, the finances of the school.

Governors visit lessons, so that we can see the excellent learning and teaching. Governors meet and listen to the children, who tell us what is best about Downview, and what they would like to improve.

Every year we plan a focus for our class visits based on the School Improvement Plan and this year's focus is Maths.

As Governors, we try to remember, all the time, that our work should be focused on the children and their learning.

School Improvement Plan

All schools are required to produce on an annual basis a School Improvement Plan and this is done at the beginning of September with all the staff and Governors. Governors regularly monitor this plan.

The Priorities in this year's plan are:

- ◇ Maths - raised expectations. Assessment
- ◇ Writing - raised expectations. Assessment
- ◇ Grammar and Punctuation - phonics and spelling



The school Governors are also striving to improve. At our meeting in July we carried out our Governors' Self Review, which has resulted in the production of a Governors' Development Plan which we are beginning to work on.

Parents Feedback

The Governors of Downview School firmly believe part of the success of our school is the partnership that is built between parents and the school; therefore, the Governors are eager to receive your views. We recognise the children clearly benefit from what the school offers, their happiness is paramount to us, so if you have any queries or questions for governors please do not hesitate to contact me via the school.

Contacting Governors

We are an amenable group of people! Parents are welcome to contact Governors at any time. If you wish to write to a specific Governor this can be done by handing a letter to the school office, addressed for the attention of the Governor concerned. Letters to the Governing Body should be addressed to Mrs. Sue Hawthorn (Chair) and delivered in the same manner.

Governors are always available at Parents Evening, just tick the box stating that you would like to meet us and we will happily meet with you.

Whilst we welcome and value your comments, any initial comments, queries, concerns or complaints and issues relating to the day to day running of the school should, in the first instance, be referred to the class teacher or to Mrs Williams.

Kind regards

S. Hawthorn

Mrs Sue Hawthorn
Chair of Governors