



DOWNVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

October 2015

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. What an exciting time we had last year with the new school build and what a fantastic addition it is! The changes to the existing building are pretty amazing too. Governors would like to thank West Sussex for initiating the project and we would particularly like to thank Osbornes for everything they did - they were a brilliant team.

For those new to Downview I would like to introduce ourselves and tell you a little about what we do.

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 Fiona McKenzie and Mrs Jess Twine
Parent Governors	Mr Anthony Holland, Mr Phil Nicholas and Mr Chris Pacey
Co-Opted Governor	Mrs Eileen Lord
Local Authority Governor	Mrs Val Morris
Secretary to Governors	Mrs Janet Ramsdale



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.

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

Are you interested in becoming a Governor?

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'. 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.



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:

- ◇ Reading - every child reading, narrowing the gap, phonics and spelling. Assessment.
- ◇ Maths - raised expectations. Assessment
- ◇ Writing - Talk for Writing, Grammar and Punctuation, Phonics and Spelling. Assessment.

As you may be aware the Government have introduced a new curriculum across all schools. This new curriculum has greater age related expectations particularly in maths, reading and writing and also in other subjects such as spelling. You may also be aware that Assessment is changing, as national curriculum levels to measure children's attainment will no longer be used. An interesting time ahead I think.

Ofsted has also changed its inspection framework from September 2015. An outstanding grade from Ofsted is more difficult to achieve under the new framework. Our school continues to aspire to retain this grade.

The school Governors are also striving to improve. At our meeting in September 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. For the Spring Term Parents evening we plan to be there for you to come along and meet us. More details to follow nearer the time.

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

