



DOWNVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

November 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

A belated 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 and Christmas is just around the corner!

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 warm welcome to Mrs Faye Hawkins, Mrs Emma Priest and Mrs. Maxine Smith who joined us in September.



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	Mrs Faye Hawkins, Mrs Isabel Hellyer and Mrs Jess Twine
Parent Governors	Mr Owen Costen, Mrs Laura Farrant and Mrs Maxine Smith
Co-Opted Governors	Mrs Hazel Jones and Mrs Emma Priest
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.

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

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. Governors regularly monitor this plan.

The Priorities in this year's plan are:

- ◇ **Maths** - Embedding Mastery of raised expectations and meeting the needs of rapid graspers.
- ◇ **Writing** -Mastery of raised expectations. Handwriting and Spelling.
- ◇ **Reading** -Effective use of reading journals and strategies for moving under-attaining children



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