



DOWNVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

November 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

A warm welcome too all our new families throughout the school. I hope you have all settled in to the new term. I did notice the other day when I was in reception that all the children there seem to be having a whale of a time and are settled into life at school.

Mr Owen Costen resigned as a Parent Governor in October and we would like to thank him for all his hard work over the last 3 years. We will be welcoming on board our new Parent Governor Mr Simon Brand in the next few weeks.

For those new to Downview I would like to introduce ourselves and tell you a little about what we do. As from December 2019 the Governing Body will be made up as follows:

Chair of Governors	Mrs Sue Hawthorn (Co-opted)
Head Teacher	Mrs Mandy Williams
Staff Governors	Mrs Isabel Hellyer and Mrs Jess Twine
Parent Governors	Mr Simon Brand and Mrs Laura Farrant
Co-Opted Governors	Mrs Hazel Jones
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". This 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 other meetings where five or six governors meet to talk about a part of the work, these Committee meetings take place once/twice a term (depending on the Committee). The areas of work are:

- ❖ Learning and teaching; the children's progress, their attainment 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 first hand. Governors meet with 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 formal classroom visits

based on the School Improvement Plan. The Ofsted framework has changed in the last few months so we have decided that our focus will be on the Foundation subjects for the year ahead.

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 and GDS
- ◇ **Writing** -Mastery of raised expectations and GDS
- ◇ **Reading** - GDS
- ◇ **SPAG** - Raise attainment

Contacting Governors

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.

Letters to the Governing Body should be addressed to Mrs. Sue Hawthorn (Chair) and delivered to the school office.

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, Headteacher.

Kind regards

S. Hawthorn

Mrs Sue Hawthorn
Chair of Governors