



## DOWNVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

November 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

A belated warm welcome to all our new families throughout the school. I hope you have all settled in to the new term. I wanted to wait to write to you until you had all had the chance to settle into our new routine.

For those new to Downview I would like to introduce ourselves and tell you a little about what we do. As from September 2020 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 Governor	Mrs Georgina Harmsworth
Secretary to Governors	Mrs Sharon Ivall

### ***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). Currently these meetings take place virtually.

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.

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

As you are aware, a letter was sent out asking if anyone would like to put themselves forward as a Parent Governor. Unfortunately, no applications were received at this time. **Please consider joining our Governing Body.** No previous experience is necessary and you do not need to have an educational background. If you are interested in joining the Governing Body please contact Mrs Williams via the school office.

As of December 2020, Mrs Farrant will be standing down as a Parent Governor as her term of office comes to an end but we are delighted to say that she has agreed to become a Member of Downview Trust. Mrs Farrant has written a short narrative of her perspective of being a Parent Governor at Downview School.

*Being a parent Governor is a huge privilege; I am my fourth year and have really enjoyed my time at Downview.*

*Being able to visit during the school day for governor visits or open mornings is very rewarding. You gain a wonderful insight through the eyes of the children and into their education. You are also made very welcome by staff and especially the children.*

*The role is strategic, not operational. This means that we do not get involved in day to day running of the school, but ensure that the policies, procedures and practices of the school are robust and fit for practice.*

*All governors are linked with a subject area for example, literacy or mathematics where you take a deeper look into the strategic make up of the curriculum and how this supports the progress of pupils.*

*I am involved in several committees each with a different focus. The key focus is always to support the head teacher and school wherever we can.*

### **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. This year despite everything, one has been produced. Governors regularly monitor this plan.

The Key Priorities in this year's plan are:

- ❖ Support the mental health and wellbeing of all children and staff
- ❖ Continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning for all children; with a particular focus on children with gaps in learning, leading to rapid progress.
- ❖ Develop a reading environment which contributes to rising reading standards
- ❖ All leaders to continue to develop a coherent foundation subject curriculum; including RHE with a focus on inclusion, equality and diversity
- ❖ Develop a quality contingency plan for providing remote education.

### **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.

**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