

The role of school governors

Although governors are ultimately accountable for much of the school's activities, it is very much at a strategic level as the day to day running of our school is delegated to Mr Pearson and his team. This *strategic* role entails reviewing and setting the overall direction of the school in addition to the approval policies and procedures brought to us by the headteacher and staff.

Governors also ensure *accountability* through the setting and reviewing of both the overall school targets and the headteacher's own performance. We also approve the setting of the school's financial budget and review activity against this on a regular basis.

The last major part of the governor's role is to act as *critical friend* and while this is often at a chair – headteacher level, it can also be further down the school's structure if thought necessary. This normally entails nothing more than asking why, what, when, where and how questions and/or offering (normally non-teaching) advice.

The structure

Legally the full board of governors has to meet formally three times a year, this is normally on a Tuesday evening about 4 weeks into each term. However, most governors also sit on one or more of the three main sub-committees which focus on specific aspects of the school. These committees sit once or twice a term.

The *Strategic Development Committee* looks specifically at the academic performance of the school and members of staff are often required to present reports on aspects for which they are responsible.

As the name would suggest the *Pupils and Personnel Committee* is responsible for the children and staffing side of school life and amongst the many items in which they have an interest, are almost always involved in staff interviews. Both the Pay and Disciplinary Committees are sub-groups of this committee and meet on a 'as and when required' basis.

The *Finance and General Purposes Committee* looks after the school's annual budget and all the day to day issues surrounding the premises. Health and Safety comes under the remit of this group as does alterations and additions to the school building.

Governors are free to choose which committee they wish to join (although they are under no obligation to sit on any) and decide annually whether they wish to stand down from, or join, any of the three committees.

Most governors have responsibility for specific aspects of the curriculum and many are also linked to class and year groups. Some members also have specific roles within the governing body such as training governor, complaints governor and governor with special responsibility for child protection and special education needs. Many governors also take on 'one off' projects as and when the need arises.

The local authority offers an extensive number of training sessions across the county in all aspects of school governance, members are expected to take responsibility for their own development and often attend courses in the evenings and at the weekend.

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Governor Newsletter

Welcome

Hello and thank you for taking the time to read the first BHPS governor newsletter; we hope it will become a regular feature which we intend to publish at least once a year. Our intention is to keep you informed about issues with which we are currently dealing, or have dealt with, in addition to governor 'ins and outs'.

In this edition you will find pen portraits and pictures of current members and a brief outline of the roles and responsibilities of the school governor, together with the structure of the governing body as it applies to Bramcote Hills.

I hope you will find it informative and that it allows you to be able to identify and approach some of the governors you may see in and around school.

I have been a community governor since 1995 and currently hold the position of chair of governors, a role which I have filled for the past 7 years. I sit on all of the sub-committees and am currently the chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. I am the link governor for both the arts and staff development and have special responsibility for the office and site management staff, in addition to the head teacher.

In addition to attending a number of regular in-school meetings, I frequently sit in on meetings of the school council and help to coach the school cricket teams.

I live locally and am now semi-retired. My wife was, until recently, a long serving member of the school staff and both of my daughters are past pupils of the school.'

Richard Knightsbridge.

Chair of Governors.

Who are the governors?

Our governors come from a wide variety of backgrounds bringing a wealth experience with them. At BHPS we have a governing body consisting of 18 members who serve a term of 4 years before having to seek re-election. There is a Chair and Vice-Chair, both of whom have to stand for re-election each year.

The members consist of *parents* who are elected via a parental ballot; *staff* who have volunteered, or have been elected by their peers; *community* members who usually have specific knowledge and skills to bring and are normally invited to join by the governors themselves. Finally there are a number of members who have been proposed by the political parties who make up the *Local Authority* in Nottinghamshire; I hasten to add here that, although neither the school nor the governors have any say on who these members are, politics does not enter into any aspect of school governance and has never been an issue at Bramcote.

I hope this has given you an insight into the working of the governance of your school. Governors, like you, have one aim only and that is to ensure that your child and every other child who enters our school has access to, not only a fine start to their education, but also a rich, varied and most of all, happy, school life. Should you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to ask myself or any of the other governors you may see in and around school.



Governing body profiles



Margaret Summerfield

I am Vice-Chair of governors – a retired teacher with experience of primary, secondary and tertiary education. I have been a governor for fifteen years. My main interest is as Chair of the Pupils and Personnel Committee which deals mainly with staffing and pupil issues. I am also responsible for Special Needs (SEND), Equal Opportunities and Child Protection.

I am proud to be able to contribute to the work of this outstanding school.



Nadeem Shah

My name is Nadeem Shah and I am a parent governor here at Bramcote Hills Primary school. I have been working in schools for around 15 years now and I am currently the assistant Headteacher at an outstanding Nottinghamshire primary school. I strongly believe that schools should be truly engaging places that inspire the belief in children that 'anything is possible' while meeting the personalised needs of all the individual learners. My governor responsibilities are Health & Safety and Numeracy.



Eileen Atherton

I have been a School Governor for Bramcote Hills Primary for the past 9 years or so. After leaving School I was a Secretary to a Partner in a Nottingham Solicitor's Office. After getting married I kept an Off-Licence in Beeston for 34 years before retiring in 2001.

I have 2 daughters and 4 grandsons.

I have been a Borough Councillor for Chilwell West since May 2007.



Dr John Doddy

I am a local GP and have worked in Stapleford since 1991. I am a Child Protection lead in my practice and a Caldecott guardian. I bring the experience of 22 yrs of working with children and the understanding of how family dynamics are just as important in a child's performance as the school itself. I am married to my wife Dorinda for 24 yrs and we have 3 boys.



Mark Holmes

I have been a community governor for 3 years with my wife previously being a governor for 8 years. I am the clerk for the Finance and General Purposes committee and Year 6 link. I am also the lead for sports. I bring my life experience of having been a psychiatric nurse for 22 years having 3 children, one currently in year 5 and the other two have blossomed at the school and now are continuing to do so at the local Bramcote School.



Yael Meier

My name is Yael Meier and I am a qualified primary teacher. I have two children – Luke who is two and Ana who is currently in Year 5. I was elected as a Parent Governor in November 2012 and I have three years left to serve. I am a Link Governor for Modern Foreign Languages and Foundation Stage and I currently sit on both the Pupil & Personnel and Strategic Development Committees.

Governing body profiles



Dr David Park

Dr David Park is an Authority Governor (ie appointed by the Local Authority) who lives in Bramcote. A graduate of the University of Nottingham, David has 4 children (aged 12, 9, 7 and 5) who are home educated. He is currently Managing Director at Eminate Ltd, a University spin out company focussed on identifying and commercialising early



Sue Headland

I have been a Parent Governor since October 2010 with two children currently at the school in Years 1 and 3. I am the link governor for Year 5 and also the governor responsible for governor training. I am secretary to the Pupils and Personnel Committee which meets at least once a term. I had a professional career as a HR specialist and am now training to be a teaching assistant



Nick Grayling

I am an ex-pupil of the school. I have been a governor at BHPS for around 1 year now and I sit on both the Finance and General Purpose committee and the Strategic Development Committee. I want to ensure that each decision we make is right for the children and that we are fit for the future.



Cathy Ross-Waddell

I am a part-time Lecturer in German at Nottingham Trent University and my three children all attended Bramcote Hills Primary. I have been a parent governor for 3 years and in addition to serving on the Pupil and Personnel Committee, I am linked to Literacy and year 3. I also take a particular interest in music and languages. I enjoy contributing to the life of this excellent school.



Pete Whyard

I was selected by the staff as one of the staff governors last year. I have been a teacher here at BHPS since January 2004 and this is my eighth year teaching in year 6. Some of your children may also have encountered me as the teacher-in-charge of the football club and athletics club or helping out with the tag rugby teams. I currently sit on the Pupils & Personnel and Strategic Development sub-committees. My responsibilities in school include Assessment Coordinator, Science Coordinator, Design and Technology Coordinator and taking the lead on Enterprise.



Michelle Whiley

I have been working at BHPS for 16 years now and decided to take an interest in the way our Governors support and work with the school. I stood for Staff Governor and recently got elected onto the committee. I currently work in Year 6 and have various roles within the school. I am involved in organising the sporting events which take place, support the ICT co-ordinator and help manage any playtime conflicts and resolution needed in school which involves organising the playtime crazes. A couple of evenings a week I also work for the City Council undertaking a Play and Youth Worker role.