

Governors

This Year – Learning and Caring Together

This year has seen a number of changes to the school Governing Board.

A new chair, David Fisher, was elected in the Autumn term to head the Governors facilitating close working with Miss Johnson to lead the school through some unlucky events - such as unfortunate staff sickness, changes in the Early Years teachers, the emergency closure of the school in the spring term and the loss of Merebrook Children's Club, all the while responding to the findings of the last Ofsted report and pushing up standards.

We have been working with the Local Authority as well as other specialists and very closely with other schools in the area to share knowledge and assist each other in improving all aspects of school life.

This year have seen changes in the tests introduced by the Government in assessing the progress and attainment of pupils, in particular in Years 1 and 2. We are extremely pleased with the Year 2 results this year and it appears that our average results are higher than the average results for the rest of Milton Keynes. We thank all the staff for their steadfast efforts and commitment in achieving these outcomes.

Three new parent Governors, Kathryn Phillips, David Jolly and Kim Sayer (all with children in Early Years) joined fellow parent Helena Murray on the Board, and Sara Harris joined us as a co-opted Governor.



Governors

The Board set up three new committees in order to allow more focus from the Governors with the best suited skills for the matters delegated to those groups:

Curriculum and Attainment Committee:

Chair – Sue Collett

Vice Chair – Pam Blanchard

This committee deals with all matters related to the curriculum of the school and monitoring and improving attainment and progress of the children. Each year group and subject leader have dedicated link Governors to give feedback to and the members of the committee regularly attend the school to see the pupils in the classes and review work and books to ensure that high standards are being reached. All results of attainment and testing are presented to the committee to ensure that the best possible outcomes are being achieved.

Resources and Finance Committee:

Chair – Helena Murray

Vice Chair – David Fisher

The resources and finance committee members have a wealth of knowledge in dealing with finances, budget setting, staffing and other such matters. They bring skills from their background and careers to ensure that the money received by the school is put to use in the best possible way to improve standards, facilitate excellent quality teaching and to fund as much extra-curricular learning as possible.

School Community Committee:

Chair – David Jolly

Vice Chair – Kathryn Phillips

The School community committee deals with all pastoral matters including behavioural issues, links with community groups and CHoMS, extra-curricular activities and raising funds additional funds. It hears reports from specialist



Governors

Governors and teachers relating to health and safety and safeguarding issues among others, and works towards increasing parental inclusion in the school.

Our thanks go to the new PTA, CHoMS in their role of raising funds for the school, and in particular for the Summer Fete which attracted many 'out of school' visitors and helped raise the profile of Merebrook.

What do we do?

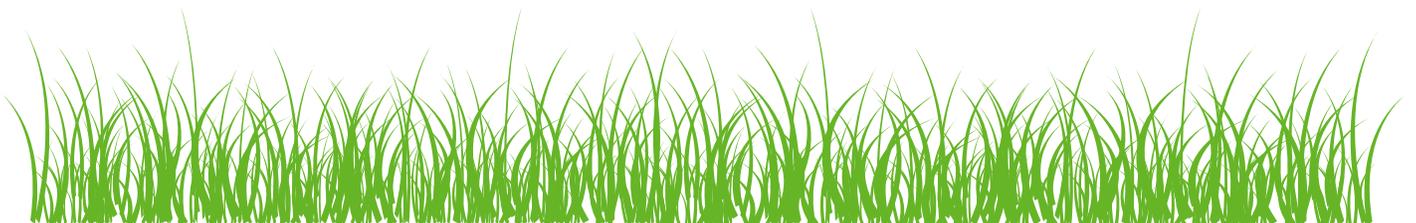
The Governors work very closely with the Head and other members of the senior leadership team to set the ethos, vision and strategic direction, support and improve the school and educational outcomes, and make the tough decisions, especially regarding allocation of resources in a time of ever more decreasing funding.

The Governors also assist with recruitment and are the top level to hear any complaints and set the policies which the school follows. Details of various policies can be found on our website, as well as lots of other useful information.

Although volunteers, all Governors take responsibility for the overall running of the school and are dedicated to achieving the best possible educational standards for the children of Merebrook.

Next year

Next year the priority of the Governors is to move the school up to a 'Good School' in its next Ofsted Inspection, which is expected in the Autumn term. Every year we set and follow a School Improvement Plan which details the outcomes we wish to achieve over the school year, along with how we and the staff intend to do that and a timeline of our target goals. The school improvement plan is available on our website for anyone to review. With good results this year, a strong leadership team and an enthusiastic Board of Governors we believe that we can achieve our goals!



Governors

Next year we will sadly be losing our long standing local authority Governor, Sue Collett, and we thank her for her tireless efforts bringing her wisdom and experience to the school. In addition, parent Governor Kathryn Phillips will be stepping down. Both ladies have given many hours to the school and their hard working ethos will be missed. This leaves a vacancy for a new parent/guardian Governor to join us, and we will be sending out details of how to stand early in the new school year. If you do wish to have any further information about the role please talk to the head or ask at the office to be put in touch with the Chair. Sara Harris will be replacing Sue as the Vice Chair of the Board.

You may have heard that the Government has been keen to convert all schools to Academies. The Governing Board will be considering the best way forward in this matter next year and have been receiving training to fully understand the conversion process and what this would mean for Merebrook. We will be undertaking extensive research, including understanding the plans and experiences of other schools in the area, and any budgetary and curriculum based ramifications before making any decisions.

We hope that you and your children all have a wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the 2016 – 2017 school year!

The Board of Governors

