

## What does the Governing Body do?

We are a body of people comprising parents, staff and members of the local community. Our role is to support the strategic leadership of the school and monitor every aspect of school life to ensure that we are offering the very best experience and opportunities for the children in our care. Working on a voluntary basis, we meet every half term (our meeting minutes are available to parents) and we are lucky to have a number of governors who can visit the school during the day to spend time in the classrooms. We keep parents up to date of our activities with regular posts in a governor newsletter and here on the school website. As the school is part of the Stratford Rural Schools Federation, the Governing Body represents all three primary schools within the Federation (Loxley, Snitterfield and Wilmcote) and is responsible for establishing the **strategic direction** of the Federation by: setting the vision, values and objectives for each school; agreeing improvement strategies; and ensuring that each school meets its statutory duties.

The Governing Body ensures **accountability** by:

- appointing the Executive Headteacher and handling the Executive Headteacher's performance management;
- contributing to the school's self-evaluation;
- monitoring pupil progress; and
- engaging with all stakeholders.

The Governing Body also ensures **financial probity** by:

- setting the budget;
- monitoring spending; and
- ensuring that value for money is obtained.

The Governing Body works in close partnership with the Executive Headteacher, Heads of School, staff, the Local Authority and, in the case of our two Church schools, the Diocese. In the Stratford Rural Schools Foundation we have a clear expectation about the role of governors.

Every year, the governors are also required to fill in a form to declare any financial, personal or business interests as well as to declare whether or not they also serve on the governing body of any other schools. The information is compiled into a **Register of Interests**. You can also access this register from the menu on our governor home page.

### School Visits

Our federation governors come into school as often as they can to do learning walks and to meet and talk with staff and children. Their visits are planned in advance term by term, and are linked to the School Improvement Plan so that governors can focus on specific issues that will feed into the plan. These visits give governors the chance to see the work of the school in action, ask questions and feedback to the full governing body about what they see.

The governors see this as an important part of governor monitoring and school improvement.

**The visits the governors carried out during the Summer Term 2016 focused on:**

**SAFEGUARDING** - Producing an annual report on safeguarding and reviewing the school's safeguarding policies and overall practice.

**ATTENDANCE** - Reviewing attendance data against targets set and ensuring that progress was made on any action plan put into place.

**TEACHING and LEARNING** - Carrying out a 'Learning Walk' and a review of the children's workbooks, focusing on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Governors also discussed Early Years provision with the Early Years Foundation Stage staff and held discussions with pupils on community involvement, maths, marking and the feedback they get from teachers on their work. Governors also looked at how the Pupil Premium was been spent and carried out forward planning for the Pupil Premium for 2016/17.

**LEADERSHIP** - Monitoring the function of the Senior Leadership Team. Looking at job descriptions, objectives and action plans as well as opportunities for school to school support for subject leaders.

**BEHAVIOUR & SAFETY** - Health & Safety visit to all three schools were made.