



## SPRING EDITION 2018

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Governor Newsletter. I am regularly asked what I do as a Governor, so in this edition, I've written an article asking: what is a school Governing Body; who is on a School Governing Body; how do Governors fulfil their role; and what are the main Governing Body Committees, what do they do, and how often do they meet? I hope that you find it useful. I've also included the profile of our newest Governing Body member, Diane Stead.

*Claire Baker, Vice-Chair*

### What is a school Governing Body?

School governors make collective decisions, as part of the Governing Body, whose primary function is to help raise the educational standards and performance of a school by supporting the work of the headteacher and staff. Governors make important decisions on how a school will be run. Some of the things expected of Governors include:

- promoting high standards of achievement;
- planning the school's long-term future;
- setting the school's aims, values and ethos;
- budgetary allocation and control;
- appointing senior staff.

### Who is on a School Governing Body?

A school governing body is made up of different types of governors to reflect different parts of the school community. The most typical of these are parent governors, staff governors, local authority governors and co-opted governors. Governing bodies work on a stakeholder model not a representative one, so those elected endeavour to provide the views of an average parent, average member of staff, or average member of the community. Governors are all volunteers. We also look to have a broad range of professional skills on the Governing Body to deal with the many challenging issues which arise in the running of a school. All governors are equal. Once elected the term of office is four years.

Our Governing Body brings together a group of people who have a wide range of different skills and interests. We see our role as to actively support, encourage, monitor and challenge the school staff and children. Our desire is to see children develop into well rounded young people while they are in our care. We have a very capable Governing Body comprising a good mix of people who have long service and experience, together with relatively new governors who bring fresh insights. All are dedicated to see the school provide the best possible environment for the children and are committed to "make a positive difference".

### How do Governors fulfil their role?

Most governors take up specific roles within committees of the Governing Body, e.g. Chair or Vice Chair. Others take on a responsibility for supporting the work of the Headteacher and staff in a particular area, e.g. SEND, Health & Safety, or Safeguarding. This gives governors the chance to widen their knowledge of and contribute to the development of the school. And since September, each governor, except those who are members of staff, have been allocated a class that they visit once per term. Click on the following link to find

your child's class' governor and access their profile: <http://www.holmeprimary.co.uk/governors/governors-whos-who/more-about-the-governing-body>

### **What are the main Governing Body Committees, what do they do, and how often do they meet?**

The full HOSM Governing Body meets at least once a term, more often if issues require it. In addition to several statutory committees, key to the working of our Governing Body are the functional committees, which meet on a termly basis to evaluate and challenge. Each school governor will normally actively participate on two of these functional committees:

- The Curriculum Committee, which has oversight of the curriculum and the way in which the educational aims are fulfilled;
- The Pupil Progress Committee, which monitors the progress and attainment of pupils throughout the school;
- The Resources Committee, which has oversight of all financial matters on behalf of the full Governing Body, regularly reviews the staffing structure to ensure that the education aims can be achieved, and keeps all matters concerning the fabric of the school under review;
- The Pay and Performance Committee, which deals with all aspects of staff pay and performance.

If you would like any further information, follow the link to the Governors' section of the school website, which I update regularly: <http://www.holmeprimary.co.uk/governors/welcome-from-chair-what-is-a-school-governing-body>

*Claire Baker, Vice-Chair*

## **GOVERNOR PROFILES**

### **DIANE STEAD**

I have lived in Holme on Spalding Moor for 6 years having moved here after retiring. I am originally from Leeds but spent 18 years bringing up my family in Norfolk. I have 2 girls. One is a drama teacher at a secondary school in Maidenhead and the other daughter is presently in her final year of a PhD at Leeds University. My husband was a parent governor for 12 years at both the primary and secondary schools that my daughters attended, so I was always very much aware of the work involved in being a governor. My background is secretarial having spent 13 years working at Leeds University prior to getting married and eventually moving to Norfolk with my husband's work. On arrival of our children I helped with reading in the primary school and eventually ran the village playgroup. I then moved to a school nursery attached to a primary school where I also worked as a classroom assistant. I was involved with all the school years and helped with all subjects. I was also present at numerous Ofsted inspections. Prior to retirement I worked for 5 years at Norfolk County Council in Children's Services processing the Statements for Special and Additional Needs. This included contact with parents, headteachers and the various medical practitioners involved in the process. I would now like to bring some of my experience to the school having spent many years involved with education in one way or another. I am a member of the Church choir and also the village bowling club.