



Ardeley School Governor Focus

March 2019

Governor Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to all who returned the Governor Questionnaire. The results, along with other feedback from Ofsted, our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner and the Diocese, inform the the School Plan for Improvement' (SPI). Below is a summary of the main findings from this year's questionnaire:

- The majority of parents feel their children enjoy school and are happy at school.
- All parents feel their child is safe and well cared for at school.
- All parents are happy with the quality and breadth of education and the moral, social and spiritual guidance that the school provides. They also agree the school promotes positive non-discriminatory behaviour and tries to foster respect and equality for all
- Most parents believe the school ensures the pupils are well behaved. There were very positive comments stating Mrs. Connolly deals with any issues swiftly and effectively and all parents agreed the school is well lead and managed by Mrs. Connolly and the Governors.
- 50% of parents agree that any views or suggestions they make are carefully considered, the remaining 50% didn't know.
- 22 of the 24 parents are satisfied with homework.
- Most parents are satisfied with out of hour's provision.
- When asked about attendance at Collective worship 11 parents could not attend due to work commitments. 2 named parents stated they could not attend due to young toddlers although one parent thanked the school for making Collective worship child friendly.
- The response to spelling tests was very positive with 9 named parents stating they believed they were beneficial and a great idea.
- When asked what they enjoyed/valued about Ardeley, there is a consistency with comments made in the last 8 years' questionnaire results, such as the fact that Ardeley is a... "small well run, intimate, friendly school with good leadership. Also, the fact that it installs morals and spiritual guidance. Because the school is small everyone knows and cares for one another including the staff and it feels like one big happy family." Parents liked the location and links with the local community and farm and the varied after school activities.
- Suggestions for improvements ranged from improving the lunchtime process with a kitchen on site, variety of PE provision and inter school matches. Improvement in the integration from one key stage to the next was mentioned. Improvement in parking was also suggested. There was a request to slightly extend nursery hours which could increase nursery take up.

What have we done?

Staff have discussed and updated the school's homework policy.

Mr Fitzgerald now teaches PE to all pupils and has taken on the role of coordinating the subject. PE is valued highly at Ardeley and we are pleased to have been awarded a gold medal for PE once again.

A new parking initiative was suggested.

Extension of the nursery provision is being considered.

School Governors Role

You may have asked yourself what the role of a school governor is. 'Governors for Schools' states:

Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. They enable their school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to children.



Being a school governor is a commitment to attending governing board meetings which set the school vision, mitigate financial risk and scrutinise educational outcomes. They are also involved in the school community, acting as critical friends to the headteacher and senior leaders.

Governors bring a wide range of skills and expertise from their professional lives to the governing board and schools benefit greatly from working with skilled volunteers.

Ardeley School governors have specific roles, listed below.

Governor's Name	Responsibility
Mrs Rita Beasley	Clerk
Mrs Gemma Burgess	Mental Health
Mrs Anelli Cleverly	Child Protection, Safeguarding, Science
Mrs Karen Connolly	Head Teacher
Mr Chris Dawson	Admissions, Numeracy, Pay Committee
Mr Ian Denchfield	Treasurer, Pay Committee
Miss Rebecca Fry	Teacher
Mrs Jackie Hayward	Chair, Safeguarding, Child Protection
Revd Mike Leverton	Cannon at Ardeley St Lawrence Church
Mrs Kirsty Mains	Vice Chair, Training & Skills Appraisal, Data Protection RE & Collective Worship, Pay committee
Mr Harvey Phipson	Vice Chair, Health & Safety, Computing
Prof. Tracy Warr	S.E.N.D, Offsite Visits, Induction
Ben Twiston-Davies	Equality, Literacy, School Council

School's SPI

The school's governing board produce a document called 'The School Plan for Improvement' (SPI). This guides the school's priorities for improvement, there are lots of actions set for the next 2-10 years but the 4 key objectives for 2018-2019 are:

- To raise attainment in Maths to meet national averages across the school—focusing on arithmetic
- To narrow the attainment gap in Reading for PPG pupils
- Raise attainment in Spelling across the school.
- To develop our values and mental health curriculum to make ours an exceptional curriculum.

Meet a Governor ~ Ian Denchfield

I joined the governing body of Ardeley school some 14 years ago when my daughter began at the school. During my term I have spent time primarily as the chair of the resources committee but also as Chair for a number of years. In my professional life, following gaining a degree in business from the University of Bradford Business School I joined the then BAA (British Airports Authority) where I worked for 21 years. During this time, I was based at all of the major London airports and at head office working predominantly within commercial roles including, at one point, as Finance Director. I left BAA in 2011 moving to the education sector. I am currently the CFO for a Multi Academy Trust in South Hertfordshire.

Governor Changes

A fond farewell to Mrs Janet Naylor who has served the governing board for over 20 years. A huge thank you for her commitment in helping to improve the lives of the children who attend Ardeley school.

We would like to welcome Mrs Gemma Burgess as a Parent Governor and hope that she enjoys her role helping to take the school forward.