

# Governors' Newsletter

DUDDON ST. PETER'S  
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Governing Body

**Chair**  
Katie Pierce

**Vice-Chair**  
Rev. Adam Friend

**Head teacher**  
Paul Hudson

**Staff Governor:**  
Lesley Garnham

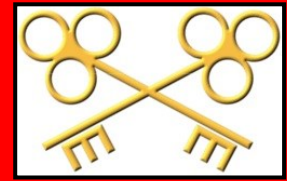
**Parent Governors:**  
Helen Chapman  
Rebecca Butcher

**Foundation Governors**  
Steve Latham  
Barbara King

**LA Governor:**  
Vacancy

**Co-opted Governors:**  
Claire Entwistle  
Liz Smith  
Vacancy

July 2023



As we approach the end of this school year, we as governors have thoroughly enjoyed being involved in seeing your children developing and achieving their potential with such enthusiasm.

On behalf of all the governors, thank you to all the inspiring staff for your dedication, energy, commitment and care throughout the year. The staff put in so many hours for the benefit of all the children — enjoy your break over the summer! It is with sadness that some members of staff are not returning in September but we thank them for their hard work this year and wish them well for the future.

It has been wonderful this year to enjoy the many PTA events and for the children to enjoy activities in school funded by the PTA. The support of parents is one reason why the school is a success and it is a delight to welcome parents to school for various events, and not least the recent performances and sports day.



The school is very much a partnership of parents, staff and governors. Together as a team, I hope we will all continue to provide our children with confidence, independence and above all enjoyment in their learning. We are focused on ensuring the children will be the best they can be.

Finally, we wish you all a fun filled and restful summer break and we would like to give our best wishes and good luck to the Year Six children and families who are now leaving the school to move to their new school settings.

Katie Pierce      Chair

**Changes to the Governing Body:** Over the last few months two of our Governors have left the Governing body; Jackie Wilson on reaching the end of her term and Abigail Hope who retired due to work commitments. I would like to thank both Jackie and Abigail for the work they put into the Governing Body and their commitment to the school. We wish them both well for the future.

We do have two Governor vacancies and will be reaching out to the school and local community in the new academic year. We would welcome specific experience in HR or the legal sector, Education and National Curriculum or marketing. If anyone would like to have a discussion with regards to becoming a Governor or knows someone who would be interested, please do not hesitate to contact Katie on [chair@dstp.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:chair@dstp.cheshire.sch.uk).

**Going forward:** Our focus going forward is on ensuring that pupils are provided with as wide a curriculum as possible. This is work in progress and new subject programs are being reviewed to be implemented in the coming year.

We are also focused on ensuring that the school has a long term future and to this end Mr Hudson has been offered a permanent appointment as the joint head of Duddon St Peter's School and Barrow School. For the last two years this has been a temporary arrangement but the benefits are many and the two governing bodies agreed to make this permanent.

The two governing bodies meet regularly to discuss how the schools can collaborate. This has already been successful in sporting events, staff training and curriculum discussions but there will be many more opportunities that can be considered.

It is also important that we publicise the school as widely as possible to ensure that there is a constant flow of new pupils. This includes inviting prospective parents/pupils to attend our popular and successful "Stay and Play" events in Treetops. Word of mouth too is very important in spreading positivity and attracting new families.

**Uganda:** The Governing Body was delighted to support Mrs Knight's trip to Uganda and hear about her experience at our last meeting. We feel that this link offers a valuable learning opportunity for pupils and will support this in the future.



## Teaching & Learning Committee

The Teaching and Learning Committee continues to meet on a termly basis, monitoring the curriculum and the progress which the children across the school are making. This often leads to detailed discussion about cohorts and any areas of concern, as the role of governors is to challenge as well as to acknowledge the great work which is being done. Members of the committee also review policies and liaise with staff about this where necessary.

Since Ofsted's visit in the spring term, we have asked for regular updates on progress in those areas which Ofsted highlighted that needed greater focus. In this way we have been able to understand the efforts made by subject leaders and staff to identify how to ensure that all curriculum subjects are taught to the same high standard. This is leading to changes to the ways in which some of the Foundation Subjects will be taught from September.

Assessments other than in Maths and English have been discussed and governors have confidence that good progress is being made in deciding on the best ways in which these can be achieved.

**Liz Smith** *Chair of Teaching & Learning*

*[l.smith@dstp.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:l.smith@dstp.cheshire.sch.uk)*

## HEALTH & SAFETY:

As a foundation governor with responsibility for monitoring health and safety, I conduct a perimeter walk once a term. This is actually a pleasant activity given fair weather, as it involves wandering around the school site looking out for any potential hazards. I usually start in the playgrounds doing visual checks on exterior structures such as the play houses and sheds, looking for anything loose or broken. I also look at the school building itself to spot anything like loose tiles or guttering, particularly if it has been windy recently.

I then walk through the sensory garden area, again checking for items such as broken fencing, greenhouse glass and tripping hazards. Moving onto the wooded area at the back of the field involves checking for loose or fallen branches and ensuring that the area is easy to move around. The perimeter of the field is next to see if the boundary fence and hedging is intact. The pavilion is also inspected along with a walk through the orchard, a trip to Treetops and finally a walk up the driveway and around the parking spaces. Finally, I compile a report for governors so that repairs can be planned and budgeted for. We are currently waiting on repairs to roofing, the walking area in Treetops, and the pothole in the driveway.

**Steve Latham** Health & Safety Governor  
Steven.Latham@dstp.cheshire.sch.uk



**SAFEGUARDING:** Safeguarding continues to be a priority for the school and it was reassuring to know that when Ofsted paid their visit earlier in the year, they were very happy with the safeguarding issues which they inspected.

This year, safeguarding training has been updated for those staff who required it, and also for new staff who joined the school. I have regular termly meetings with Paul Hudson, where we discuss any current issues or areas of concern. These meetings are minuted and the outcomes shared with the rest of the Governing Body.

As well as the annual audit which we have instigated, we are also presenting an annual report to the Governing Body; this outlines where actions have been completed and any areas which need further development.

The school's Safeguarding Lead is Paul Hudson and the Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Claire Entwistle. If you have any concerns, you are able to contact them or myself to discuss them.

**Liz Smith** Safeguarding Governor I.smith@dstp.cheshire.sch.uk



**'Be  
the best  
you can  
be'**

## GOVERNOR ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Chair - Katie Pierce
- Vice-chair - Adam Friend
- Finance – Katie Pierce
- Health & Safety - Steve Latham
- SEND - Becky Butcher
- EYFS – Adam Friend
- Safeguarding - Liz Smith
- Pupil Premium - Adam Friend
- RE and Wellbeing – Barbara King
- Quality of Education – Liz Smith



## **What is a governor responsible for?**

- Hold the Head teacher to account for their decision making.
- Help to ensure that all decisions made by the governing body are in the best interests of the school.
- Help set and maintain the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- In collaboration with other members of the governing body, identify key areas for improvement.
- Set clear and ambitious strategic priorities and targets for the school.
- Ensure the school's curriculum is accessible for all pupils.
- Ensure the school's policies and procedures are effective, up-to-date, compliant with legislation and acted on.
- Ensure the school has the resources it requires to deliver on the expectations of the governing board.
- Prepare for meetings by reading all relevant paperwork and considering queries, feedback and potential issues to raise. Read relevant briefings and newsletters.
- Respect and adhere to the confidentiality of governing body affairs.
- Develop an in-depth understanding of effective governance.
- Apply personal and professional knowledge and skills to the objective of raising school standards.

### **Compliance with education legislation and guidance**

- Ensure all school policies are compliant with government guidance and legislation.
- Ensure staff members have an understanding of education guidance and legislation relevant to their role and that they undergo relevant training.
- Ensure all staff members have undergone the appropriate DBS check relevant to their role.

### **Monitoring**

- Use pupil attainment data to assess how well pupils are performing academically.
- Monitor the progress and performance of the school as a whole.
- Ensure the school's budget is being managed effectively.
- Maintain an awareness of the budget available for improvement to ensure targets are realistic.
- Ensure the school's curriculum is challenging, engaging, accessible and compliant with the National Curriculum.
- Develop an understanding of how the school works, its strengths, and areas for its improvement.
- Hold the Head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and for the performance management of staff.

### **Communication**

- Identify any areas for concern.
- Attend, and actively participate in, governing body meetings.
- Ask challenging questions.
- Listen to the views of pupils, parents, staff members, the local community and work as a governance team.
- Work in partnership with the Head teacher and other governors to improve educational outcomes for pupils.
- Ensure that effective communication is maintained with other governors and members of the school community.

### **Additional duties**

- Invest time in personal and professional development, including by attending relevant governance training.
- Contribute towards a positive culture and effective processes in relation to self-evaluation.
- Identify any gaps in knowledge, skills and experience and take responsibility for personal learning.
- Participate in the recruitment and approval of new head teachers and other senior leaders.
- Play a role in the Head teacher's appraisal.
- Abide by all relevant governance policies.