

# 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:

Rebecca Butcher

### Foundation Governor

Steve Latham

### LA Governor:

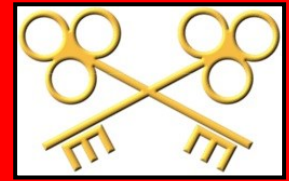
Vacant

### Co-opted Governors:

Claire Entwistle

Liz Smith

March 2024



Welcome to this edition of the Duddon St Peter's Governing Body Newsletter.

This has been a short term but also a very busy time for Governors. At the end of the spring term we provide a report to the LA with regards to our financial standing which assesses whether we are achieving a good level of financial health and resource management. This is an important part of Governor responsibility as good financial management supports the long term future of school and the learning outcomes for the pupils. This is a significant amount of work but it is worthwhile and I am pleased to report that our outcomes are good and we are financially sound.

In addition to an Ofsted inspection school is also inspected as a church school by The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). This is a key element of the life of all Church of England and Methodist schools in England.

SIAMS explores ways in which each school's theologically rooted Christian vision drives its work and enables the school to live up to its foundation as a Church school. Our SIAMS inspection is not due before September 2025 at the earliest however we feel that this is an area that requires some focus and not just for the purposes of inspection.

Adam Friend is heading up a focus group to review our school vision and whilst the Governing Body needs to drive any change this is something which encompasses the school community and local community. We welcome any input and thoughts you may have; please be in touch with either myself or Adam directly.

We wish all families and staff a lovely break over the Easter period and some rest and rejuvenation ready for the Summer term.



Katie Pierce  
Chair of Governors

[chair@dstp.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:chair@dstp.cheshire.sch.uk)



### Teaching & Learning Committee:

The Teaching and Learning Committee met in January. Discussion included the progress of all children across the school during the autumn term. During these termly discussions, the role of governors is to celebrate the achievements of pupils and the hard work which is carried out by staff in order to help them make good progress. Governors are also expected to ask challenging questions if they see areas where groups may not be making expected progress, for which there may be many reasons. They also listen to strategies which are put in place to provide support or ways in which teaching is being adapted in order to drive improvement.

Policies relevant to teaching and learning are also reviewed at each meeting; staff and governors have an important input to amending policies and ensuring that any recent developments and changes are incorporated into the policies. All the school's policies are available to read on the school website, or as paper copies from the school office on request.

The Committee was updated on the continuing steps being taken to improve the delivery of Foundation subjects across the school (History, Geography, Music, French, Art, Design and Technology and Computing). If you would like to see more detail about the delivery of individual subject curriculum and how they are taught, please visit the website and view the documents which are listed under the Curriculum tab. Staff are continuing to work with Barrow School and local authority advice about the improvements and all the hard work which is being carried out by staff should be recognised and valued. They are continually driving forward and these achievements have been observed by external visitors and advisers.

Thank you to all the staff for their relentless efforts to benefit the children.

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

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



Mental Health and Wellbeing is a socially topical issue at this present time. It is something which society and individuals have avoided for many years. When we talk about our wellbeing, part of what we need to do is to change the language we use. I remember a couple of phrases from when I was growing up as a child that were spoken to me. "Pull your socks up" and "put your big boy pants on". When I was a child they were phrases supposedly of encouragement, I think, however they reflect so much of how we saw mental health and wellbeing as the problem of the individual person to solve.

I hope we are moving to a society, a culture and individuals where this is not the reality and phrases like this, and many others I am sure have been spoken to you in the past will cease to exist. Changing our attitude and language as parents and carers allows our children to not have these phrases implanted in their minds.

As governors we are working through this change with staff and children and this will overflow to parents and carers. As the Vicar of the parish I have a much wider role to the extended school community and also have a mental health first aid certificate, which translates to I am okay to listen if you want to talk.

*Rev. Adam Friend      Mental Health First Aider*  
*Adam.Friend@dstp.cheshire.sch.uk*



**SEND:**

I am Rebecca Butcher, the SEND link for the Governing Body. I am a Parent Governor and have a professional background in children's services, most recently with looked after children. I look forward to meeting with our SENDCo, Mrs Tench, on a regular basis in order to keep the governing body accurately informed regarding the school's SEND data.

*Rebecca Butcher*  
*SEND link governor*

