

Governor Newsletter Worlebury St. Paul's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

October 2014

Welcome from the Governors

Welcome to the September 2014 Governor Newsletter, especially to the new families joining our school. We are looking forward to getting to know you and hope you will soon feel very at home here.

In this newsletter we aim to give you a brief overview of what governors do and who we are.

The Governing Body together with the Head teacher and senior staff, are the school Leadership and Management team. We share responsibility

governors have brought the school from being a small, first school, catering for children from Reception to Year 3, to a full primary school. This included two major building projects and significant fundraising (which is ongoing).

Governors need to hold the school to account for performance in terms of the attainment levels our pupils achieve and the progress they make throughout the school. We also need to ensure that the school is making the best use of the resources we have (our time, budget, staff,

Governors are often described as "critical friends" to the school. Critical as in challenging, asking those difficult questions, but also critical as in essential, as any good friend is.

for the school. The Head teacher (who is appointed by the governors and is also a governor), is responsible for running the school on an operational / day to day basis. The role of governors is strategic, setting the direction of the school. What do we want to look like in the future? Previous

buildings, equipment etc.) to make sure we are meeting the needs of all our pupils. As governors we do this by constructively questioning and challenging the school and monitoring progress.

Any governor can be contacted via the school office, or you can email the Chair of Governors cofg@staff.worlebury.n-somerset.sch.uk

Worlebury St. Paul's C of E VA Primary School, Woodspring Avenue, Worlebury, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset, BS22 9RH

Practicalities of being a governor

Unpaid volunteer

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Six governing body meetings a year (one per term). Three are full governing body meetings and three are sub-committee meetings (each governor is on either the Staffing and Curriculum or Finance and Premises sub-committee).

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Governors take on specific areas of responsibility e.g. Health and Safety, Safeguarding, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability), Pupil Premium.

Governors arrange monitoring visits and write up a visit report each year for the governing body, which can also be reviewed by Ofsted as evidence of governor involvement.

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Governors sit on panels e.g. Heads Review, Admissions, Complaints.

Additional sub-committees and panels are formed as and when there is a need.

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Governors also attend governor training.

Worlebury St. Paul's Governors – Who's Who?



Felicity Williamson, Foundation Parent Governor, Chair of Governors

Felicity has a daughter in Year 3 and another who has just started Reception. She works part time for the Local Authority, forecasting pupil numbers across North Somerset and analysing education and social care data.

Alvin Jeffs, Foundation Governor, Joint Vice Chair of Governors, Safeguarding, Pay & Performance

Alvin has recently retired from special needs education after 47 years. From 1990 to 1996 he headed up the SEN (Special Educational Needs) services for the County of Avon, before leaving to join OFSTED. Over the past 17 years he worked as a school inspector (England and New York). In 'retirement' he continues to advise special schools. Alvin has one grandchild in Year 3 and another who has just left for Broadoak. In addition he has two grandchildren living in Puriton, where he is also a governor at Puriton Primary School.



Martin Williams, Joint Vice Chair, Staffing and Curriculum (Chair), Admissions

Martin has a long association with Worlebury St. Paul's as he is a former pupil from the old school site down the hill. He is a familiar face around the school as his company undertakes the cleaning and maintenance.

Rev. Geoff Eales, Ex-Officio Governor, Staffing & Curriculum, Admissions, RE Methodist and Collective worship, SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools), Relationships & Sex Education, Music

Geoff is vicar of St Peter's Milton & St Paul's Kewstoke. He oversees the Christian ethos of the school, including links and visits between church and school, pastoral care, religious education and collective worship. Geoff is also responsible for recruiting Foundation Governors, so if you are a committed Christian and regular worshipper at your church, watch out, Geoff will be after you!



Jonathan Howse, Parent Governor, Finance & Property (Chair)

Jonathan has a daughter in Year 3. He works for Capita as a Regional Compliance Inspector in their Insurance and Benefit Services Division.

Caroline Matthews, Foundation Governor, Finance & Property (Vice Chair), Pay & Performance Committee, Safeguarding

Caroline has been a Governor at Worlebury for 2 1/2 years. She is a mother of a five year old girl and a three year old boy. With her background as a finance lawyer she wanted to use her skills to assist the School.



Worlebury St. Paul's Governors – Who's Who?



Miranda Pincott, Parent Governor, Finance & Property, EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) lead, English lead, Pupil Premium lead, Health & Safety

Miranda has two girls at Worlebury in Years 2 and 5 and a son who has just moved on to Secondary school. She works part time for the BBC. After two decades in TV Production she is currently production managing a portfolio of events for BBC Academy. This supports programme makers, digital creatives and technology innovators across the broadcast industry to explore creative opportunities offered by developments in digital.

Alison Devereux, Foundation Governor, Staffing and Curriculum, Pay and Performance, Training

Alison's employment background was originally in printing then later in care of the elderly. She has spent the last 17 years looking after her family and doing various voluntary activities around family commitments. Her children attended Worlebury St Paul's from 1997 – 2001 when she was also a governor. Alison has been an active member of St Paul's Kewstoke for the past fifteen years.



Heather Gregory, Foundation Governor, Staffing and Curriculum, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability)

Heather has been an SMSA (School Meals Supervisory Assistant) at Worlebury for a number of years. This means she knows our children well. Heather is married with five children all of whom attended Worlebury St Paul's. Her eldest child started back in 1999 and her youngest is currently in Year 4.

Gillian Quick, Head teacher, Admissions, Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Budget

Gillian Quick has been Headteacher of Worlebury St Paul's School since September 2004. She has been in the profession for twenty six years and has taught in a secondary school, special school and a variety of Primary Schools. In her time at Worlebury she has worked alongside governors, staff, parents and of course children in order to realise her vision of expanding the school from a First to a Primary age range school. This has involved providing a quality learning environment and staffing structure for our very special school community. "It is an honour and a privilege to be Headteacher of Worlebury St Paul's Church of England V.A. Primary School."



Kate Porter, Teacher Governor, Staffing and Curriculum

Kate has been teaching at Worlebury since 2010. She started in Year 1 and is now in her fourth year in Reception. She became a staff governor in 2013 and has found it really interesting to see how the whole school works as one.

Liz Mansbridge – Clerk to the governors (not a governor but plays a vital role in the success of the governing body)



Liz has clerked for the governors for the last 11 years and seen many changes at the school during that time. One thing that has remained constant has been the commitment of everyone to providing the very best for the children at the school and she has loved sharing in that. Liz is looking forward to supporting the school in the future.

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Governors Vacancies

All governing bodies comprise of up to six different types of governors including parent, staff, Local Authority and Foundation governors – governors appointed by the church. We currently have eleven governors and seven vacancies. However, we have just begun discussions on reconstituting. This is something we legally have to do by September 2015, meaning we need to decide how many and what type of governors we want in the future. The general idea is that smaller governing bodies are more responsive and effective. We will keep you up to date on discussions and once we know what vacancies we have, we will be asking for nominations for potential new governors.

Information

The school website is a great source of information www.worlebury.n-somerset.sch.uk

Under the **Information** section you can find policies that the governors have agreed. These cover a wide range of topics from learning and teaching, healthy lunchbox, and pupil behaviour to complaints. There is also information such as term dates and attainment results (in a file called Whole School Data under the General heading). Whilst mentioning results, we'd just like to say congratulations to our previous Year 6 pupils and staff for such great Key Stage 2 results

last year. Well done. As governors we are really proud of you all.

Fundraising

As mentioned earlier, our school has grown in size and numbers over the last few years. As a church school this meant that we had to fund 10% of the build costs. A fantastic job has already been done by previous and current parents in raising £67,000. We now have just under £12,000 left to raise to clear the loan. The governors would like to thank Worlebury Friends for re-establishing last year, for putting on so many successful events in such a short space of time and for agreeing to donate 60% of their profits to paying off the loan. We are very grateful and looking forward to what you have planned this year.

We hope this newsletter edition has been useful. Do please get in contact with any governor or via the email address on the front page if you have any questions or comments or just want to find out more about what we do. We'd love to hear from you.

Best wishes, Worlebury St. Paul's Governors

Extra money for our school?

From September 2014 all Reception, Year 1 and 2 pupils are automatically entitled to free school dinners every day.

This is great news for our youngest pupils and families. However, it's possible that your child may also be entitled to free school meals through years 3-6, depending on your personal circumstances.

Our school is entitled to extra money, known as the Pupil Premium, to support pupils from low income families who are eligible for free school meals, even during the period when they are automatically entitled.

Even if your child was only eligible briefly, £1,300 per pupil per year is available to Worlebury to provide additional services across the school to help raise the attainment of pupils from low-income families and to close the gap between them and their peers. The governors monitor how effectively this money is being spent.

Free school meal enquiries are dealt with by the school office confidentially and sensitively and other pupils have no way of knowing who is receiving them. Please contact the school office for more information and help with the relevant forms involved.