



West Hill Primary School

(a partner in the SMILE Learning Trust)

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Headteacher: Cheryl Boulton



Governor Update- January 2019

Now that Christmas and the New Year are behind us, and all the children and staff are back to work, I should like to take this opportunity to tell you about the Governing Board and its work.

The Government requires all school governing bodies to have three core strategic functions. These are to:

1. **Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
2. **Hold the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;**
3. **Oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure funds are well spent.**

The Governing Board of West Hill Primary School currently consists of:

- The Head Teacher
- 1 Staff governor
- 4 Co-opted governors
- 1 Local Authority governor
- 2 Parent governors
- 2 Foundation governors

The board has 3 vacancies at the present time.

Since June 2018 we have welcomed 5 new members onto the Board. They have been undertaking formal training to ensure that as a board we are well prepared to support the school and fulfil our statutory duties. We recognise the importance of training in equipping governors for the complexities of education, changes to procedures, and the ways teaching is delivered.

All governors are volunteers and give freely of their time and skills as they believe that this is a valuable and practical way of serving the community. We are always looking for new governors and the talents they bring to further develop the school. If you are interested in becoming a governor, or know of someone who could bring valuable skills to the Board, please contact the Head teacher or Chair of Governors via the school for more information.

Each governor has a committee role, strategic responsibility and subject responsibility, thereby having a broader view of the school. This ensures that no one governor becomes overwhelmed by their governor tasks. This combination presents a better understanding to the board as a whole as it adds rigour to monitoring. It allows the board members to ask insightful questions with the aim of challenging the Head Teacher on the educational performance of the school and its pupils.

Whilst carrying out our regular tasks of budgetary monitoring, safeguarding and reviewing the educational performance of the school, we have been busy re-assigning governor roles to ensure continuity. We have now completed this major task as follows:



Rowan Ross	Co-opted governor	Chair; Curriculum & School Improvement Lead.
John Pulsford	Co-opted governor	Vice Chair; Safeguarding Lead
Simon Pedrazzini	Co-opted governor	Premises & Health and Safety Lead
Jeremy Stone	Co-opted governor	Inclusive Education & SEND Lead
Vacant	Staff governor	
Clare Doble	Local Authority governor	Personnel Lead
Ashley Pocock	Parent governor	Finance & Pupil Premium Lead
Vacant	Parent governor	
Lee Jordan	Foundation governor	Parent & Community Links Lead
Vacant	Foundation governor	
Cheryl Boulton	Head Teacher	

We thank all our school staff for their hard work in giving all the children the best experiences they can. This has ensured that standards have been maintained and where possible improved. Our pupils are happy, safe and have a love of education which is evident in their attitudes to learning, to their classrooms, and their books. May we also take this opportunity to thank our parents for their continued and unstinting support which enables the children to maximise their potential.

Looking ahead:

Key Issues for the Governing Board during 2019

- Training and integration of new governors
- Optimising strategic support and challenge to the school
- Ensuring that the curriculum prepares pupils for life in modern Britain
- Developing a new Governing Board Strategic Action Plan

Future Plans

- Maintaining the standard of excellence in the school by focusing attention on areas identified for improvement.
- Ensuring that the school is appropriately resourced and that the workforce have access to training to allow them to excel as a team and as individuals
- Ensure there is a full and appropriate induction scheme for governors
 - to allow them to integrate quickly,
 - to provide the best support to the school by asking challenging questions, and offering appropriate advice
- Develop governor interaction with parents and the wider community.

Rowan Ross
Chair of Governors