

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

Welcome

To the Parents/Carers of our pupils, to this our first edition of St Peter's CE Primary School Governor Newsletter. In overseeing the management of our School the Governors are constantly looking at ways in which to improve matters. One area we have identified for development is our link with you the parents/carers of the children of St. Peter's. Good communication and close links with you are key to understanding each other. So what better way to start than to give you an insight into who we are, what we do for the school and more importantly what we aim to achieve for your children, the Head Teacher, staff and support staff of the School.

Our aim as Governors is to improve our contact with you and to raise awareness of the role we have and the work we do. A Governing Body can often appear remote from the everyday life of a School and for many parents the role it plays is often not at all clear. Hopefully the introduction of our Governor Newsletter will go some way to help address this issue and as a result you will feel that you have a better understanding of who we are and what we do. More importantly it gives you the opportunity to contact us, raise any issues and suggest improvements that you may feel will benefit the School.

In this first edition we want to introduce you to the members of the Governing Body and identify to you the roles and responsibilities we hold. It is our intention to produce a quarterly newsletter and in future editions we will be sharing with you some of the major issues of general interest that we have been looking at during our meetings.

Who Are We?

You may have seen us within School at various "in-school" functions but our aim is to make ourselves more visible to you, giving you the opportunity to approach and discuss any matters with us. When in School, Governors will be identifiable by their orange strapped Governor badges; we have recently trialled this with some success at the Christmas Fair, the School Christmas service at St. Peter's Church and more recently the Sports themed school disco. We will also be present at the forthcoming Parents Evening and other events. Alternatively should you wish to drop an email to st.peters.darwen@blackburn.gov.uk with your comments, we are always looking at ways in which to improve and your thoughts are important to us in that ongoing task.

Who Are We:

Chair of Governors:	Mr. Peter Jackson
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Andrew Robinson
Head Teacher:	Mrs. Vicky Weddle
Clerk to Governors:	Mrs. Joyce Kirkham
Staff Representative:	Mrs. Vicky Crompton
LA Representative:	Ms. Christine Waring

Foundation Governors:	Rev. Canon Fleur Green Mrs. Michelle Nuttall Mrs. Alex Whittaker Mr. David Wylie Mrs. Margarita Pickup Vacancies
Parent Governors:	Mr. Andrew Robinson Vacancies

We wish to thank those recent outgoing governors Robert Alcock and Robin Fitzpatrick for their commitment and attendance at Full Governors' meetings and Sub-Committee and their valued input. Their departure leaves us seeking to recruit interested parents/carers who might come forward and join us in our supporting and management role within the School. Feel free to contact any Governor for more information about a Governor's full role / responsibilities. Please apply before the closing date 2nd April 2014.

What is Our Role, What are Our Responsibilities?

The responsibilities of the Governing Body are wide and varied but here are just some examples of the areas that we deal with: -

- Establishing the overall strategic direction, vision and ethos of the school
- Acting as employer of the School teaching and support staff
- Appointment of Head and Deputy Head Teachers
- Agreement of Admissions Policy
- Reviewing the Head Teacher's decisions and provide resource and support in all areas
- Approve and monitoring the School budget
- Oversee the School's Curriculum Policy
- Ensure that the Health & Safety and overall wellbeing of children is adhered to

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The role of a Governor is a commitment to the school for an elected period. It is an unpaid, voluntary position which is rewarding through the support and development we give to the Head Teacher, staff and support staff, but most importantly the reward comes from the pupils and their achievements.

We have four key sub-committees that report back to the Full Governing Body meetings, of which there are three a year. These sub-committees meet termly; they cover all aspects of the day-to-day running of the School and deal with legislation changes that may have an impact on the management and resource requirements: -

Finance Sub-Committee:

Agreeing to Head Teachers Budget
Reviewing the Allocation of Financial Resources
Budget Monitoring
Setting the Schools Financial Value Standard
Reviewing of School Policies

Staffing Sub-Committee:

Agreeing to Levels of Staffing Resource Proposals
Agreeing to Recruitment Requirement Proposals
Review Standards of Teaching & Staff Performance
Reviewing of Resource Requirements to Finance SC
Reviewing of School Policies

Curriculum Sub-Committee:

Data (SIMS) – *Separate Focus Group*
Review Interventions and their Impact
Monitor Pupil Premium Measurements & Impacts
Reviewing of Resource Requirements to Finance SC
Reviewing of School Policies

Building Sub-Committee:

Review Proposals from the Head Teacher
Health & Safety Checks with Recommendations
Reviewing of Resource Requirements to Finance SC
Reviewing of School Policies

Did you know it costs £1.2m/yr to resource, operate & maintain St. Peter's School?

Our Core Functions (governed by Ofsted)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being a Strategic Leader of our School• Ensure Every Child gets the Best Possible Education• Ensure Clarity of Vision, Ethos & Strategic Direction | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote High Standards of Education• Holding Head-Teacher Accountable• Overseeing the Financial Performance• Evaluating Governor Performance Regularly & Improve its Effectiveness |
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So What Have We Been Doing?

It goes without saying that the last twelve/eighteen months have been the most challenging, but with a strong leadership group of Governors we have made great strides toward improving our School. Here are just a few areas in which we have been focusing on in order to achieve St. Peter's a 'Good' Ofsted grading: -

- Appointment of a strong, dedicated and supported Head Teacher
- Challenging & supporting the Head Teacher's management of the school & resources
- Supporting the improvement in the quality of teaching and pupil attainment (at all levels)
- Maintaining knowledge and impact of legislation changes
- Improving our own performance and our role and responsibilities as School Governors
 - Understanding Data Management (SIMS System)
 - Challenging the Data and setting achievable standards and commitment
 - Communication & Visibility with Stakeholders (parents/carers, staff & pupils)

Our Current Focus

First and foremost we are actively encouraging and supporting the excellent work of the Head Teacher and all her staff, in a challenging and robust manner to achieve the very best for the pupils of all abilities. **Specifically, our primary aim is to achieve an Ofsted 'Good' Overall rating for our School.** To help achieve this we have a

- Half-termly Data Focus Group, aimed to understanding and monitoring achievement
- We constantly review the resource levels in line with legislation changes
- We are active in scrutinising the progress of children and aim to achieve better progress

Our commitment to you is to always provide the best resources available, levels of teaching and headship and to provide an exceptionally supportive, safe and nurturing environment in which your child can learn and develop.

Future Editions

We appreciate that this first edition has been an exhaustive overview of the Governors and their role within St. Peter's, however we would hope that you have found it informative. Our aim for future editions will be tailored toward current focus, our classroom visits and their impact, changes and development, an insight into governors and how we (collectively with you) can improve and make St. Peter's CE Primary School the first choice school within Darwen.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter