

Shire Oak C of E VC Primary School

Governors' Newsletter Spring 2016

Welcome to the Shire Oak Governors' newsletter. We will be using the newsletter to keep you informed about our membership and activities. We would like to keep in regular contact with the school community.

Who we are

The Governing Body is made up of local community representatives, Foundation (Church) Governors appointed by the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales, parent/carers, Local Authority Governors, teachers and the Head Teacher. For our current Governors, please see the box below.

What we do

One of the Governing Body's main aims is to make things as good as they can be for the children of Shire Oak. Our activities are organised with this overall aim in mind. We come together as a whole and in smaller sub-committees to look at different aspects of school life: academic achievement and progress, the curriculum, behaviour and attendance, the wider school community and the school budget. We gather together evidence about what is happening in school and review and monitor it, asking questions about how things are done and what can be done to make things better.

Our priorities for spring 2016

- **Spelling**

There are certain particular areas of focus this school year 2015-16. One of these is spelling, an area where there is room for improvement in children's results (last year's Ofsted report discussed this). The Governing Body has been following the ways in which the school is improving spelling and will be evaluating the success of these during the year.

- **Inclusion**

The Governing Body is also working to ensure that progress in results across the school is the same for all children, and that those who are disadvantaged in different ways achieve equally. A special Inclusion meeting was held in January 2016 to monitor this.

- **The Curriculum**

We are looking at certain areas of the curriculum this year. Every year we monitor the ways in which Maths and English are being taught, and in 2015-16 we will also look at Foreign Languages and IT. The teachers with special responsibility for these areas come to our meetings to talk about their subjects.

- **Assessment**

We also have a new challenge this year as the way in which children are assessed at primary school is changing. The 'levels' (from 1abc to 6abc) which previously appeared on school reports will no longer be used, and schools have been given the freedom to devise their own methods for talking about children's progress and achievement. This means a shift in the way Governors monitor the school's results, and we are working on new methods for doing this.

Regular activities

There are lots of things that the Governing Body has to look at regularly. These include health and safety at the school, safeguarding, the children's spiritual development, the school's website, policies, and values, as well as taking part in the performance management of the Head Teacher and sitting on appointments panels. Governors also meet with representatives from the Children's Centre and Headingley Pre-School. All of these activities take place during the school year according to a schedule of meetings and paperwork. As Governors we spend a lot of time examining and revising school documents, to make sure they best reflect the current situation at the school and the needs of its children. We also have to keep up-to-date with developments in Government education policy and adapt what the school is doing accordingly.

Join us!

If you are a member of the local community or a parent/carer at the school, and would be interested in becoming a Governor, please talk to us. Our roles are challenging but very rewarding, and we all take a real pride in serving our school.

The Shire Oak Governing Body 2015-16

Reverend Tony Whatmough (Foundation Governor)
Ann Dudzinski (Foundation Governor)
Julia Kelly (Parent Governor, Chair)
Sadie Alton (Parent Governor)
Anna Swinburn (Parent Governor)
Helen Pickles (Parent Governor)
Councillor Neil Walshaw (LA Governor)
Sally Dyster (Co-Opted Governor)
Gill Eastabrook (Co-Opted Governor, Vice-Chair)
Dick Killington (Co-Opted Governor)
Heather Flanagan (Staff Governor)
Jane Astrid Devane (Head Teacher)
Marcelle Maver (Deputy Head, Associate Member)

shireoakgovernors@gmail.com

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Governor Attendance Record 2014-15

Governor name	Full Governing Body	Pupils, Parents and Partnerships committee	Resources committee	Teaching and Learning committee
Sadie Alton	3/5*	n/a	2/3	n/a
Jane Astrid Devane	6/6	3/3	4/4	n/a
Ann Dudzinski	4/6	n/a	0/4	n/a
Sally Dyster	5/6	n/a	4/4	n/a
Gill Eastabrook	5/6	3/3	n/a	1/1
Bridget Emery (until end 2015)	1/1**	1/1	n/a	n/a
Heather Flanagan	6/6	n/a	n/a	4/4
Julia Kelly	6/6	n/a	n/a	4/4
Kathi Kelly (until summer 2015)	3/6	3/3	n/a	n/a
Marcelle Maver	6/6	n/a	n/a	4/4
Janie Percy-Smith (Chair until summer 2015)	5/6	2/3	4/4	3/4
Jonathan Pryor (until summer 2015)	1/6	n/a	n/a	n/a
Jules Staveley (until summer 2015)	1/6	n/a	0/4	n/a
Tony Whatmough	3/6	3/3	n/a	0/3
	*S Alton joined the GB in autumn 2014 ** B Emery joined the GB in summer 2015			