

Shire Oak C of E VC Primary School

Governors' Newsletter Spring 2017

Welcome to the annual update from the members of the Shire Oak Governing Body. We use this newsletter to keep you informed about our membership and activities.

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

The Governing Body's priority 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 the 2016-17 school year:

- **Spelling**

We are continuing to monitor children's progress in spelling throughout the school, which is one of the school improvement priorities. Members of the Teaching and Learning sub-committee will be conducting a Learning Walk during the summer term in order to look at how approaches to spelling are reflected in the school environment.

- **Children's Centre**

Headingley Children's Centre, which is located in the school grounds, has entered into a partnership with Horsforth Children's Centre, based in Broadgate Primary School, and both centres will share a new joint manager. The Governing Body, which oversees the Headingley Children's Centre through a special sub-committee, has been working hard this year to ensure a smooth transition to this new structure.

- **Pupil progress**

Last year's end of Key Stage 2 results for pupils' attainment were not as good as the school hoped, within a mixed national picture of changing assessment. However, pupils' progress was in line with the national average, and Shire Oak can show good progress, in particular the longer pupils are at the school. The Governors have been carefully monitoring attainment and progress during the school year, and keep a close eye on the ways in which teaching staff are intervening to help those whose learning has become 'stuck'. As progress reports have moved away from using levels to a more individualised approach, Governors oversee the ways in which each child at the school is supported to achieve their best.

- **Budget**

The school has been dealing in the last year with a significant budget deficit, in a changing and challenging wider context of cuts to education funding. Governors have monitored the ways in which the school has tackled this and have provided strategic guidance, particularly through the Resources sub-committee. The deficit has been managed without making changes to staffing, and Governors are pleased with the role they have been able to play in achieving this outcome in the current climate.

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 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 2016-17

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)

Janet Earl (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 2015-16

Governor name	Full Governing Body	Pupils, Parents and Partnerships committee	Resources committee*	Teaching and Learning committee
Sadie Alton	2/6	n/a	2/2	n/a
Jane Astrid Devane	6/6	3/3	2/2	n/a
Ann Dudzinski	4/6	n/a	1/2	n/a
Sally Dyster	6/6	n/a	2/2	n/a
Gill Eastabrook	5/6	4/4	n/a	3/3*
Heather Flanagan	6/6	n/a	n/a	3/4
Julia Kelly	6/6	n/a	n/a	4/4
Dick Killington	4/6	n/a	n/a	1/3*
Marcelle Maver	5/6	1/1	n/a	4/4
Helen Pickles	5/6	n/a	2/2	n/a
Anna Swinburn	6/6	4/4	n/a	n/a
Neil Walshaw	4/5*	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tony Whatmough	3/6	4/4	n/a	n/a
	*Neil Walshaw joined the FGB in November 2015		*Resources governors also met in a series of sub-sub-committees during 2015-16	*Gill Eastabrook rejoined T&L in November 2015 *Dick Killington joined T&L in November 2015