

**Shire Oak C of E VC Primary School**  
**Governors' Newsletter Autumn 2022**



Governors produce an annual update from the members of the Shire Oak Governing Body to keep you informed about our membership and activities. According to the Governors page on the Shire Oak website the last newsletter was issued a few years back, so we are a little behind ourselves but there's no time like the present to catch up (and it has been a funny couple of years)!

### **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, Staff and the Head Teacher. Please refer to the box below to see the constitution of our 2022-23 Governors.

### **What we do**

The Governing Body's priority is to make things as good as they can be for the children of Shire Oak whilst ensuring that the School meets its strategic priorities. We meet as a full committee 5 times a year and we also meet once a term in a two smaller sub-committees which are focussed on specific aspects of school life: One concerned with academic achievement and progress, the curriculum, behaviour and attendance, the wider school community and partnerships, and the second is concerned with the school budget, the building, health and safety, infrastructure and resources including staffing. Our role is to gather evidence about what is happening in school and to review and monitor schools activities, constructively challenging School management to ensure that they are meeting the school priorities. Further details are on the Governors page on the Shire Oak website: <https://www.shireoak.org/about1-c1fgz>

The School priorities for the 2022-23 school year are:

- To improve our quality first teaching and classroom provision so that we meet the needs of all children, including those with SEND, EAL or who could be working at greater depth. (We will do this through well planned, resourced and taught learning, a graduated approach for children with additional needs and effective deployment of support and specialist staff.)
- To ensure a consistent, whole school approach to the teaching of English including early reading and writing (phonics), reading and writing.
- To ensure a consistent, whole school approach to the teaching of maths in line with mastery principles. (Representation and structure; mathematical thinking; variation; fluency; and coherence.)

### **Our regular activities**

There are lots of things that the Governing Body has to look at regularly. These include health and safety at the school, finances, safeguarding, the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural 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. We are also on the Advisory Board for the Headingley, Horsforth and Ireland Wood Children's Centre, and take an active interest in the running of the new Acorn Club and the Headingley Pre-School. As Governors we spend a lot of time examining school and benchmark data as well as revising school documents to make sure they best reflect the current situation at the school and the needs of our children. We also keep up-to-date with developments in Government education policy, both nationally and from Leeds City Council and the Diocese and adapt what school is doing accordingly.

### **Parent, pupil and staff surveys**

We commit to undertaking surveys of the key school stakeholders; parent/carers, pupils and staff, at least once a year and we monitor feedback and compare trends year on year, which is a vital source of information.

## **Membership news**

At the start of the new school year in September we said goodbye to Jan Kramer who stepped down as Foundation Governor and welcomed David Walls who was appointed in her place.

### **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. We don't have any vacancies currently but they do arise regularly. Our roles are challenging but very rewarding, and we all take a real pride in serving our school.

### **Shire Oak Governors 2022-23**

- Antonia Nicholls - Co-opted Governor (Chair)
- Dick Killington – Co-opted Governor (Vice Chair)
- Sally Dyster - Co-opted Governor
- Ann Dudzinski - Co-opted Governor
- Reverend Angela Birkin – Foundation Governor
- David Walls - Foundation Governor
- Bianca Woodruff – Staff Governor
- Anna Swinburn – Parent Governor
- Kate Wright – Parent Governor
- Charlie Stobbart – Parent Governor
- Amy Dunmall – Parent Governor
- Cllr Neil Walshaw - Local Authority (LA) governor
- Jane Astrid Devane - Headteacher
- Marcelle Maver – Associate Governor

### **And finally...**

We are incredibly proud to be involved in such a fantastic school, which is made what it is by the amazing people who run it, Jane, Marcelle and the whole team. We know that the staff team are loyal and work very hard and we are struck by the positivity and energy that they display each and every day in their working lives.

The last few years have been unprecedented and incredibly challenging. During this period Shire Oak has provided a much needed point of stability and support for pupils and their families as well as the wider Headingley community. The Governing Body express our huge appreciation and thankyou to the entire staffing team for their loyalty, hard work and commitment during this difficult period which has made such a difference to the school community.

There will always be challenges but as a Board of Governors we are very confident and proud about everything that our fantastic School stands for.

Antonia Nicholls, Chair of Governors, October 2022