

## **Shire Oak C of E VC Primary School Governors' Newsletter Autumn 2023**

The new school year feels like a good time to produce an annual update from the members of the Shire Oak Governing Body 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, Shire Oak parents and carers, Local Authority Governors, Staff and the Head Teacher. Please refer to the box below to see our current 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 2023-24 school year are:

- Articulating and embedding the Shire Oak ways of teaching as we have new teaching staff and changes to year group taught.
- To ensure that our broad and balanced curriculum is well led and understood and that our sequence for teaching is structured for children to be successful. (Prepare all leaders for deep dives)
- To embed a consistent, whole school approach to the teaching of English including early reading and writing (phonics), reading and writing.
- To embed 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 looks 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 recruitment of new staff.

We are members of the Advisory Board for the Headingley, Horsforth and Ireland Wood Children's Centre and take an active interest in the running of the 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. We value the feedback that we receive and encourage you to take part when asked!

### **Membership news since last Autumn's newsletter**

- Amy Dunmall was replaced by Jessica Watson in the role of Parent Governor
- Reverend Angela Birkin resigned and we are awaiting a replacement Foundation Governor
- Neil Walshaw resigned and we are canvassing for a replacement local authority representative (we welcome any ideas or nominations!)
- This October we will be saying goodbye to Anna Swinburn who has been Parent Governor for 8 years

### **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.

This September we are seeking nominations for new Parent Governors as we have a vacant post and two existing Parent Governor terms of office which are coming to an end and which must be re-elected to continue.

### **Shire Oak Governors 2023-24**

- Antonia Nicholls - Co-opted Governor (Chair)
- Dick Killington – Co-opted Governor (Vice Chair)
- Sally Dyster - Co-opted Governor
- Ann Dudzinski - Co-opted Governor
- Vacancy – Foundation Governor
- David Walls - Foundation Governor
- Bianca Woodruff – Staff Governor
- Vacancy – Parent Governor
- Kate Wright – Parent Governor
- Charlie Stobbart – Parent Governor
- Jessica Watson – Parent Governor
- Vacancy - Local Authority (LA) governor
- Jane Astrid Devane - Headteacher
- Marcelle Maver – Associate Governor

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, September 2023