

# Enstone Primary School



## Who are the Governors and what do they do for the school?

Dear Parents,

We have often been asked about the role of the Governing Body and the work it does in school. We thought it might be useful to try and answer some of these questions and let you know who the current Governors are. Please do let us know if this is useful and if there are any other questions we can answer for you.

With kind regards,

The Enstone School Governors

### Q. What is a governing body?

The governing body is the school's accountable body. It is responsible for the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. The governing body aims to ensure that children are attending an effective school which provides them with a good education and supports their well-being. Over the years governors' responsibilities have grown and the 'Every Child Matters' agenda means that schools are now accountable for children's health and well-being in the community and for a wide range of extended services out of school hours.

### Q. What does it do?

Our governing body must meet for six full meetings in an academic year, but extra-ordinary meetings may also be called. Governors must make full efforts to attend all meetings.

Governors are all members of either the Resources or Curriculum committees which cover issues such as finance, personnel, sites and buildings, health and safety, curriculum and assessment. Committees meet regularly between full governing body meetings and extra-ordinary meetings can be called at any time if an urgent matter arises. The full governing body can delegate powers to the committees to make decisions on its behalf and to report back. This avoids the need for all governors to discuss and make decisions on relatively minor issues.

The full governing body will make strategic or urgent decisions only after full discussion and consultation with its members and other interested parties.

Governors are responsible for setting the values, aims and objectives for the school and play a full part in setting targets for and monitoring levels of pupil achievement. They are responsible for the appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff, Headteacher Performance Management review, budget setting and the maintenance and development of the school premises.

Governors are not responsible for the day-to-day management of the school.

### **Q. Who are the governors?**

The governors are representative of stakeholders in the local community, and they are appointed in various ways:

- the head teacher
- an elected member of the teaching staff (Teacher Governor)
- an elected member of the non-teaching staff (Staff Governor)
- elected parents (Parent Governor)
- local authority appointed (Local Authority Governor)
- governor appointed by other governors (Co-opted Governor)
- governor appointed by other governors to work in specific areas e.g. finance (Associate Governor)

There is a recommended number of governors from each group, depending on the size of the school.

### **Q. Who are our governors?**

<b>Barbara Shaw</b>	<b>Chair of Governors (co-opted)</b>
<b>Denise Caswell</b>	<b>Vice Chair of Governors (co-opted)</b>
<b>Sarah Mann</b>	<b>Headteacher</b>
<b>Sarah West</b>	<b>Teacher Governor</b>
<b>Andrew Beaney</b>	<b>Local Authority Governor</b>
<b>Anne Francis</b>	<b>Co-opted Governor</b>
<b>David Garden</b>	<b>Co-opted Governor</b>
<b>Graham Crossley</b>	<b>Co-opted Governor</b>
<b>Lisa Thompson</b>	<b>Parent Governor</b>
<b>Emma Beazley</b>	<b>Parent Governor</b>

### **Q. Why do they do it?**

The governors are members of the local community who care deeply for children and who wish to support the school and provide the best opportunities possible for the future development of its pupils.

### **Q. Are they paid?**

No. Governors work entirely voluntarily, and expenses are only paid in exceptional circumstances

### **Q. How long are they in post?**

Four years. At the end of this time, they may be re-elected or re-appointed.

### **Q. Are they trained?**

New governors undertake a range of induction training. Training is also available in specific areas, and governors undertake relevant courses to support their areas or interest or focus.

**Q. How must they behave?**

Governors must work as a team but must be individually prepared to spend significant amounts of time and energy being actively involved in the work of the governing body. They must spend time in school and get to know it well and must actively support and, if necessary, challenge the head teacher.

Governors must act fairly and without prejudice in all employment matters and work effectively with the head teacher, staff, parents, the local authority and other relevant groups in the community. In making or responding to criticism or complaints they must follow established procedures.

They must observe complete confidentiality in matters concerning specific members of staff or pupils, both inside and outside school, and must not reveal the details of any governing body vote.

**Q. Can they act alone?**

No. Governors can only speak or act independently if they have been given authority to do so by the full governing body and then only after a response has been agreed. They must not respond to individual complaints but must refer the complainant to the head teacher.

**Q. Does the Chair of Governors have more authority than the others?**

No. The Chair of Governors can sign documents on behalf of the full governing body and can represent the governing body in meetings (as can any governor) but only to express the corporate view.

We hope you find this information useful. Don't forget that copies of minutes from the Full Governing Body meetings, plus other relevant documentation, can be found on the school website in the "About Us" section under "Meet the Governors".

<https://www.enstone.oxon.sch.uk/meet-the-governors/>