

Cavendish Church of England Primary School

Challenge, Creativity, Compassion: Create a pure heart in me – Psalm 51:10



Governors' Newsletter

May 2023

Focus on our Curriculum

Achieving our Vision

As staff governor, I am in the privileged position of being part of the teaching team, working alongside my colleagues on a day to day basis and also part of another team of people, often from different walks of life, who help in the strategic running of the school. We share a common vision; to provide the best education possible for all students.

In this role, I am able to explain to the other governors how decisions made may affect the staff and, similarly, can add background and context when feeding back to colleagues.

Part of the role I really enjoy is having regular meetings with 'Subject Leaders'. Mrs Lewis is responsible for leading 'topic' – History and Geography. During my recent monitoring visit, she explained that she had carried out a 'book look' with some of the children and had gained a real insight into their understanding and enthusiasm for the subject as they shared their learning with her. She added that the children showed pride in their presentation and



Recent History work on display around our School



knowledge as they leafed through the pages together. When OFSTED visited they carried out a 'deep dive' into History, also talking to the children about their learning. Mrs Lewis feels she now needs to focus on Geography and consider making the two different subjects more defined and discrete.

I now need to find the opportunity early next half term to meet with Mrs Clarke to discuss the development of Music throughout the school.

Beverley King – Staff Governor

Focus on our Governing Body

Support and Challenge – the role of the Critical Friend

The school's governing board is made up of a body of volunteers who are legally accountable for the school. The board is not involved in the day-to-day running of the school which is the responsibility of the Headteacher. It operates and makes decisions in the best interests of the school and in line with its strategic priorities, including in relation to school finances. The board's three core functions are –

1. To ensure clarity of the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. To hold leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.
3. To oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure that its money is well spent.

The Governing Body at Cavendish is made up of eight members, each appointed in a slightly different way to ensure that the board as a whole understands and engages with the community it serves. However a governor is appointed, their role is to bring their individual skills to support and challenge the school. For example, the role of a parent governor is not as a spokesperson for the views of parents. They are the same as any other governor on the board, providing a 'parental viewpoint', i.e. representative parents rather than representatives of parents.

You will be aware that we recently recruited for a Parent Governor. As we did not have any additional applications from our current parents, I am pleased to

be able to tell you that Phil Dorrell will take this role and this will enable us to recruit an additional governor from the local community to take up the role of co-opted governor. I look forward to updating you with news of our new members very soon.

Julie O'Neill - Local Authority Governor and Vice Chair of Governors

Current Members of the Governing Body

Cheryl Wass – **Headteacher**

Rev Mark Woodrow – **Foundation Governor**

Julie O'Neill – **Local Authority Governor**

Phil Dorrell – **Parent Governor**

Beverley King – **Staff Governor**

Jessica Surma – **Parent Governor**

Vacancy – **Foundation Governor**

Vacancy – **Co-opted Governor**

Teresa Moriarty – **Local Authority Governance Support Partner**

Your Governing Body is Recruiting!

The Governing Body of our school is currently recruiting for governors. If you know of a member of our local community who is enthusiastic, dedicated, committed to team work and has time to spare, then please encourage them to contact us to find out more about the skills, time and commitment required. Contact information is available on posters which will shortly be on display around the village, or prospective governors can contact the School Office in the first instance, to arrange an informal discussion with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors.