



“We aim to support, positively challenge and enable the Headteacher and staff to fulfil the school’s mission statement”

Governor Newsletter

Annual Issue
September 2018

Statutory Functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
3. Oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money well spent.

Our Approach involves:



Welcome to the 2018/2019 Academic Year: Understanding the Role of Governors Newsletter.

Welcome

We hope you can find a few minutes at the exciting commencement of a new academic year to learn more about, who the Governors are, and what our role is.



On an annual basis, we plan to keep you informed of who the Governing Body are and their approach, in particular how this relates to fulfilling the aims of the school strategy and development plan.

Together with attending regular committee meetings, we also attend new starter evenings, assemblies, school productions, and can also be found running stalls at fundraising events.

Representation

Our team of 11 governors are volunteers and have a wide range of different skills and experiences. Our Governing Body currently includes a lawyer, project managers, HR consultants, lecturer/researcher, staff members, directors and assistant head. We aim to ensure the Governing Body represents a variety of people from different backgrounds and we have a current vacancy that we would like to use to diversify our skill set.

Claire Lawton: *I joined the Governing Body in November 2017 as a Co-opted Governor. I strive to use my knowledge and experience in Primary Education to inform and enhance Governor discussions and decisions. I am currently Assistant Headteacher at Barrow Hall Primary School in Great Sankey Warrington.*

Sam Neill: *I joined the governing body in May 2018 as a parent governor. My aim is to help the school with practical matters involving the buildings, facilities, finance, standards and personnel. I work with the Energy Industry as a Director of a technology company.*

Natalie Palmer: *I joined the Governing Body in autumn 2017 as Finance Governor. I will act as a critical friend in order that the finance performance of the school continues to support the growth and continuous academic achievements seen to date. I am currently Director of Compliance and Technical Services for a national social housing provider.*

Kate Gibbons: *I have been a Governor since being elected in 2012. Both my children attended the school and have now moved onto secondary education. I have a background in HR and have advised businesses in the private, public and charity sectors.*

Emma Newman *I have been a Governor since joining the school in 2002. I have taught across all three Key Stages and led the respective department. I am currently Head of Key Stage 2. During my time at Grappenhall Heys, I have coordinated various subjects and held roles of responsibility imperative to the school improvement plan. I continue to use my knowledge and extensive experience in education to support and guide governor discussion*

Gen Wallace-Dean: *I am fairly new to the role as a parent Governor, having joined the Governing Body in April 2018. I am hoping to bring some of my business knowledge and experience to support the school in delivering on its targets and continually striving to be the best that it can be for children, their families and staff. I am currently Head of Digital Automation at United Utilities and in my spare time, coach at Appleton AFC*

Laura O'Callaghan: *I Joined the Governing Body in October 2017. I strive to validate the schools incredible achievements and bring together the school community to drive forward innovative practices. I am currently a Lecturer/Researcher at Liverpool John Moores University.*

Jane Green: *I have been a member of the Governing Body for many years as a staff Governor. I have worked in school since it opened and have had the pleasure to watch, all the children blossom over the years at our school. I always try to help make decisions that benefit both the children and the staff*

Steve Barker *I have had the pleasure of sitting on the Governing Body for nearly 10 years now. I was initially elected as parent governor and I am now a co-opted governor. During my tenure I have sat on many committees and was elected as Chair of Governors back in 2016. The effective running of the school has always been my main priority. Both of my children have attended the school and my background is the military service and senior management with corporate aviation.*

School Priorities

Attendance and Lateness in School: We are focussed on maintaining Grappenhall Heys as an OUTSTANDING OFSTED awarded school. The only area where we are currently at risk relates to Non-authorized absences from school (for example holidays in term time) and we really need the help as parents and carers in this area. The attendance target we need to achieve to remain outstanding is 95% across the school. For the 2017/18 academic year to June, we achieved 95.96% attendance across all years. As you can see this means we have only just achieved this target. In order to help us improve this attendance record, we need your support in ensuring pupils are attending school regularly and in time for registration. We know there will be times when children cannot be at school (for example for medical reasons), but outside of those areas we ask for your support in ensuring that children attend a full school year.

Transferable skill across subjects: The evidence that informs the way children learn most effectively continuously evolves and Grappenhall Heys functions at a level in which innovative practices are encouraged. There are key skills which children can develop to support their learning in all subjects. A key focus within school is to enable experiences across the school day, which develop autonomy by the children to develop and refine their navigation of topics and identify with their own learning journey.

Well-Being: School priorities reflect a clear and balanced alignment with the holistic needs of every child. Each space and experience is designed to underpin appropriate and reassuring levels of challenge for each individual child. Through innovative practices, school can support each child's self-regulatory processes.

School Projects

In line with school improvement priorities, the central point within the school to be developed is the existing library and computing suite. An exciting learning resource area will be created, themed and designed to enable wonderful learning experiences through literacy. Projects such as this would not get off the ground without the school community coming together and supporting the Friends events throughout the year. Thank you so much for your continued support.

For further information, please visit the school website: www.grappenhallheys.co.uk

