

Great Easton C of E (Aided) Primary School
Great Easton
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Dear Parents/Carers

Governors' note to parents September 2017

I write to draw your attention to a few changes within the governing body. Most significantly, Robert Pickford, our chair, for more years than anyone seems to be able to recall, stood down as chair over the summer. Robert, as I am sure many of you are aware, has given so much to the school and all the children who have attended over the years. I am sure you will join the staff and governors in thanking him for all his hard work. The very good news is that Robert will continue as a governor, so we will not lose the benefit of his extensive knowledge and experience.

I was elected chair as Robert's replacement at this month's governors meeting and I very much look forward to trying to fill his shoes. For those who do not know me, I am a parent governor (elected by parents) and have been so for just over two years. Previously, I was vice chair at Finchingfield school. My youngest daughter, Beatrice, is in Miss Govey's class. If you use the walking bus you may see me there as I am one of the team. I can be found most mornings in the playground. I will also be at tomorrow's Fun Friday, and look forward to meeting some of you there.

We have also welcomed Penny Steele as a new foundation governor and expect to have a further new appointment later in the term, both as replacements for governors whose terms of appointment ended last academic year. We also welcome the school's own Claire Smith a replacement for Lawrence Smith, who also stood down last term, with our thanks.

For the benefit of new, and as a reminder to existing parents, here is a quick summary of what we are supposed to do.

Put simply, governors of all schools have three main roles:

- To ensure the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction
- To hold the headteacher to account for the education of the children
- To make sure the school budget makes sense and is well spent.

Governors are often described as being "critical friends" of a school, which is to say that whilst we are supportive, we have an obligation to challenge and question what the senior leadership team is doing.

Great Easton governors meet as a whole once a term but we do most of our work through a series of committees:

- Learning and Teaching
- Finance and Premises
- Pupil and Personnel.

All the governors sit on at least one of these committees and they all meet at least termly, some more than that.

Through these committees we monitor a whole range of things from pupil progress through ensuring adequate safeguarding is in place to approving school trips.

Governors also have individual responsibilities for subjects or for specific areas, such as special educational needs or safeguarding. There is a section of the school website devoted to who we are, what we do and even how many meetings we have attended. I will also update the display in reception presently.

As ever, we are most appreciative of your support for the school. Many of you help out at the school in so many ways, you send in such lovely notes to the staff for a job well done but you are also not backward about voicing your concerns, which is as it should be.

As governors, we are always keen to listen to anything you have to say, so please do not hesitate to contact us with any issues, ideas or suggestions via the school office. We, on our part, will continue to do our utmost to help make this wonderful school the best that it can possibly be.

With regards, and on behalf of the full governing body

Jeremy Toynbee
Chair of Governors