



GOVERNOR BULLETIN

ISSUE 6
APRIL 2020

Governors	Roles	Type	Terms of Office
Peter Parkin-Child	Chair	Parent	24/09/2019 - 23/09/2023
Deborah Finney	Vice-Chair Writing link governor	Foundation	01/05/2019 - 30/04/2023
Jessica McFarlane	Safeguarding, Anti - bullying & PREVENT link	Co-opted	25/09/2018 – 24/09/2022
Cilla Hollman	EYFS link	Co-opted	09/07/2019 – 08/07/2023
Roger Wilkinson	Health & Safety link	Local Authority	25/09/2017 – 24/09/2021
Rev. David Mundy	Church link	Ex-officio foundation	01/10/2018 -
Michelle Massey	Pupil Premium & SEND link	Parent	30/01/2018 – 29/01/2022
Esther Bland	Headteacher	Staff	01/09/2018 -
Kellie Wilson	Deputy Headteacher	Co-opted	26/09/2017 – 25/09/2021
Jill Ford		Staff	18/09/2018 – 17/09/2022
Jennifer Godwin	Reading link governor	Parent	15/11/2018 – 14/11/2022
Jonathan Lingham	Numeracy link governor	Parent	15/11/2018 – 14/11/2022
Victoria Freiss		Parent	11/11/2019 – 10/11/2023

The aim of this Governor Bulletin is to give you some insight into what our role as a governor is within the school, as well as updating you on the issues we get involved with. But, most importantly, I want these bulletins to reinforce that we, as a Governing Body, are here to work with all those who have a vested interest in the success of Dukes – and so please feel free to stop and chat to us* when you see us around and about.

* observing social distancing rules, of course

Well, what an unusual situation we find ourselves in! It was certainly an interesting end to the Spring Term and one in which we have all had to find our new 'normal'. One thing that stood out above all else was that the Dukes school spirit really saw us through some very challenging days as the lockdown came into place; and the way that staff, parents/carers, governors, community members, and not least the children, have all worked together shows what a special place Dukes is.

Thank You

Before I move onto some of the updates I want to share with you, I am sure you will join me in thanking the staff for all the great work they have done (and are still doing) to ensure that our children remain connected to their education. The school has remained open to support the children of key workers (who themselves deserve our recognition and thanks) and the staff have done an amazing job of putting processes in place to allow children to undertake learning activities from home (be that online or paper-based). All of this done with very little notice and yet with exceptional levels of professionalism. Thank you all on behalf of the Governing Body.

So, what do Governors do?

The Governing Body is made up of a mixture of volunteers - parents, staff, members of the community, church and local authority representatives. We meet as a Full Governing Body (FGB) six times a year and these meetings usually take place after key school data become available. Our aim is to work closely with the Headteacher to raise standards and make sure the school provides a good quality education. We do not manage the day to day running of the school - we help shape its focus and direction. We ensure accountability to parents, staff and others for the school's overall performance, support the Head and staff, as well as offer constructive challenge.

Our Last Meeting

As a result of the lockdown, we held our first virtual governors' meeting at the end of last term; and so, thank you to all participants that persevered whilst I negotiated this interesting format. The main focus of the meeting was, of course, the school's response to the coronavirus situation; and as mentioned above, we were very impressed with all the hard work that was being undertaken to deal with a variety of issues. We also discussed the school's budget and, as mentioned in previous bulletins, it is a testament to Mrs Bland and her Senior Leadership Team that we are now in much a stronger financial position than we were a couple of years ago; and this is mainly evidenced through our increasing pupil numbers as more families choose to place their child in the Dukes family. Well done to all!

IT /Building Investments

Following up from my last bulletin, I am pleased to advise that purchase and installation of the new SmartScreens into our classrooms has been completed; along with the replacement and improvement of our IT networking and cabling. Hopefully, you will have received positive feedback from the children about these?!

Unfortunately, the building work relating to the new accessible toilet and the extension to the school hall has been delayed; and is not likely to recommence until lockdown restrictions have ended. However, work on the new canopy for the Lodge did start prior to Easter, and so watch this space.

Support to families

It was great to hear from Mrs Bland that the school continues to support families in need, and that we have been providing food hampers to our most vulnerable children/families over the Easter holiday. In addition, Miss Wilson has managed to get an agreement in place with a company that will process and allocate shopping vouchers equivalent to the cost of Free School Meals; and so, this important form of support will continue to be provided.

Star School

We were particularly proud to learn that Dukes was commended for being the highest ever scoring school in terms of our GDPR provision. Below is what was circulated by Derbyshire County Council to other schools and educational establishments:

Duke of Norfolk CE Primary is our highest ever scoring school. Fantastic team that all worked to their individual strengths to make the GDPR work really impressive. Really demonstrated what can be achieved when staff members work as a team.

Well done to all and it is great to know that we are leading the way in this important piece of legislation.

And on that piece of good news, I will leave it there. Stay safe and I look forward to my next bulletin where hopefully we will have ended the school year on a happy and healthy note.

Peter Parkin-Child
Chair of Governors