



# GOVERNOR BULLETIN

ISSUE 3  
APRIL 2019

<b>Governors</b>	<b>Roles</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Terms of Office</b>
Peter Parkin-Child	Chair	Parent	01/09/2015 - 31/08/2019
Deborah Finney	Vice-Chair Writing link governor	Foundation	01/09/2015 - 31/08/2019
Jessica McFarlane	Safeguarding, Anti - bullying & PREVENT link	Co-opted	25/09/2018 – 24/09/2022
Cilla Hollman	EYFS link	Co-opted	01/09/2015 – 31/08/2019
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

## Third Governor Bulletin – we're on a roll!

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.

So, we're now two terms through the 2018/19 year – and visible changes are evident as you walk around the school. We have some great new playground art that reinforces key learning points (and more importantly keeps our children entertained at breaktimes) and there is lots of new furniture within classrooms. I will also be updating you on other key developments/initiatives such as how the school supports children who receive Pupil Premium, an update on the nursery, sports at Dukes, and what other physical improvements to the school are in the pipeline. We have also held two Governing Body meetings since our meeting in December, and attended several training/strategic briefing events; so I'll fill you in on those as well.

### ***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.

### ***So, what else do Governors get up to?***

As your Governing Body, we aim to keep abreast of the latest developments in both governance and wider government policy. We are fortunate to have an experienced Governor in our midst who is very active in both local and national governance forums, and so keeps us regularly updated about key developments. We also ensure any new governors attend a full-day training session run by Derbyshire County Council, with feedback being both positive and insightful. This also then helps us to check we are continuing to operate to best practice standards (as well as identifying where there is room for improvement). Finally, we also attend other useful seminars/courses to ensure we are up to speed with things. For example, Mrs Bland and I recently attended a workshop that provided updates on Ofsted inspections, what inspectors are wanting to see and any changes to the inspection framework that we need to be aware of. Hopefully this will put us in good stead for our next visit from the inspectors – watch this space!

### ***Pupil Premium***

Pupil Premium is a sum of money given to schools each year by the Government to improve the attainment of disadvantaged children. Eligible children are those who have qualified for free school meals at any point in the past six years, children who are or have been looked after under local authority care for more than one day, or children from service families who receive a child pension from the Ministry of Defence.

As governors, our duty is to ensure that the school is spending this money appropriately and in the best interests of the children. We receive regular updates from the Senior Leadership Team about Pupil Premium, and I have shared below the types of things that the monies contribute to:

- Additional Teaching Assistant (TA) time and Booster Groups;
- Curriculum enhancement which includes funded trips and residential;
- Extra-curricular activities, before/after school provision, and school clubs;
- Music tutors
- Additional support, meetings and reports

The school tracks each child's funding and expenditure, and this is monitored to ensure that they are getting the right financial provision and the right support; and that both are having the desired impact on raised attainment and progress.

### ***Sports at Dukes***

It was brought to the Governors' attention that Dukes was no longer part of the High Peak School Sports Partnership (HPSSP), and so we asked the Senior Leadership Team to provide us with an explanation as to why this was the case.

We were provided with a breakdown of how our Sports Premium is spent (we are in fact spending more than other schools in the Glossop area), and this includes activities such as Forest School, swimming lessons across Y5/Y6 and Bikeability/Little Bikers. It is worth noting here that we are expected to look at the 'whole school impact' of how our Sports Premium is spent, hence why a creative approach is adopted in terms of developing and running a broad curriculum of activities – and not just those popular sports that allow limited numbers to participate.

The outcome of the review was that whilst Dukes has left the HPSSP (due to increasing costs and minimal uptake), we remain in the Glossop Cluster which continues to provide us access to local competitions etc; and this has been evidenced in recent events including a swimming gala, an athletics competition and football games. In addition, we are also providing other opportunities to our children to experience different types of physical activities.

### ***Nursery Update***

We were pleased to hear that we welcomed six children to our Nursery last term, and that they have settled in well. We were informed a further five children will be joining us in September, taking us to 11 children in total against a maximum cohort of 15. As previously mentioned, this has provided Dukes with additional funding but more importantly, allows us to better prepare our pupils of the future.

### ***Ofsted Update***

As mentioned earlier in this bulletin, we continue to be mindful of Ofsted and remain focussed on addressing the outcomes of our recent Ofsted report. In our recent meeting, we reviewed pupil attainment and progress data; and were encouraged to see the continued focus on our key school improvement priorities.

### ***School Building Improvements***

We were pleased to hear that we have been awarded matched funding to refurbish our upper Key Stage 2 toilets (near the library), alongside being granted permission to spend some of our devolved capital on providing disabled toilet facilities in the lower Key Stage 2 building. Work on these two developments will take place over the summer break.

In addition, we submitted our application to the Cabinet Office in relation to our plans to improve and extend the school hall. We now have to wait for a response, so please keep your fingers crossed. I will be sure to update you once we have any news!

That just leaves me to wish you all a very Happy Easter!

Best regards

Peter Parkin-Child  
Chair of Governors