



# GOVERNOR BULLETIN

## ISSUE 2 DECEMBER 2018

<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

## **Second Governor Bulletin – doing well so far!**

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've reached the end of Term 1 – and what a term it has been! Our new Headteacher, Mrs Bland, has made lots of positive changes around the school (more on that later); we've welcomed two new parent governors to the Governing Body (more on that later too); and we've made the decision to extend our school age provision (definitely more on that later). We have also held two Governing Body meetings since our meeting in September, and 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 happens in a Governor Meeting?***

Our meetings generally last around 2 hours (although they have been known to overrun if we have lots to talk about), and we follow a set agenda that ensures we comply with Governance regulations. Our meetings are mainly focused around the discussion of key school data, where we seek to challenge the Senior Leadership Team on performance against School Improvement Plans. We also discuss any key issues that may affect the school such as finance or policy development, as well as hearing from our Link Governors about any visits into school or developments in their specific curriculum areas. We always end our meetings with a discussion as to what we have achieved that will improve the outcomes for the children at Dukes – it's why we're all there after all!

### ***New Governors***

It has been great to welcome some new faces around the governors' table. Jill Ford has joined as a Staff Governor, and brings with her an exceptional working knowledge of the school and its processes. We also appointed not one, but two, new parent governors – and so I'd like to say an official welcome to Jennifer Godwin and Jonathan Lingham! We are looking forward to their fresh perspective and input to our meetings. And thanks to all those that nominated themselves for the role – it was a great sign that so many parents wanted to get involved with the school.

### ***Nursery Consultation Update***

As most of you will be aware, we recently ran a consultation regarding the extension of our EYFS provision to include 3 year olds. I am pleased to advise that the decision to move forward with the plans was unanimously agreed by the Governing Body, and it has been full steam ahead in terms of advertising our new provision. We look forward to welcoming new pupils to the Dukes family in the near future.

## ***Ofsted Update***

As outlined in my last bulletin, the outcomes of our Ofsted report in January continue to be a key focus of both staff and governors; and we are working closely with the senior leadership team to address the issues identified. Of particular note are the following developments:

- The school has introduced a “Plus Four” document which is being used to focus the support and provision to our students with additional needs;
- A whole school leadership has been introduced whereby training and support is regularly given to ensure leaders are effective in their role and are having an impact on their leadership area.
- Curriculum and key stage teams are involved in sharing planning, moderation and work scrutinies; and this enables staff to share ideas around best practice and build on the strengths in their team through support and challenge.

## ***New School Mission Statement and Core Purpose***

As mentioned in the recent School Newsletter, the staff and some governors spent a recent INSET day devising a new Mission Statement and Core Purpose for the school. I’m sure you’ll agree that the resulting outcome “*From tiny acorns, great forests grow*” is a real reflection of the potential that we see within our children, as well as being indicative of the nurturing environment that Dukes provides. It is also ties in nicely with the ongoing provision of our ‘Forest School’!

## ***School response to recent events***

The tragic events of a few weeks ago were discussed with staff and children; not only to minimise rumour/speculation, but also to offer support at that sad time. Staff took the opportunity to discuss the impact of mental health issues on families and children, whilst giving the important message of “It’s time to talk”. Flowers and sympathies were sent to Simmondley Primary on behalf of Dukes, and our thoughts and prayers are with those affected.

## ***Safeguarding Initiative***

As the above highlights, it is important that we understand what our children are thinking and how they perceive the world around them. With this in mind, our Link Governor for Safeguarding (Jess McFarlane) has set up a Safeguarding Pupil Challenge to span a full year; with the aim for her to be more visible in school amongst pupils and staff, and encourage discussion and thoughts around safeguarding. The Challenge involves visiting classes for a quick Q&A each month and holding discussions on a topic that is central to safeguarding. In the autumn term, Jess covered the theme of ‘promoting positive behaviour’; and will be covering ‘mental health and well-being’ in the spring term and ‘keeping safe and e-safety’ in the summer term.

The results of the Q&A are shared with the Governing Body and staff, and this allows any follow up work to be identified to target specific learning outcomes.

Feedback about the visits from both staff and children has been fantastic, and it is so beneficial to hear the children contribute from thinking on the spot. Their range of answers are brilliant, and Jess has been really impressed by their ideas and opinions. If you would like to see the feedback to date, please check out Safeguarding Children page on the school website.

## ***Farewell to Mrs Muir***

Finally, it is with sadness that we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Muir. Having worked as part of the Dukes family for the last 15 years, she will be greatly missed. Mrs Muir has been a dedicated member of the school and was recently commended by the governing body for her knowledge and expertise. I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing her well for the future.

Best regards

Peter Parkin-Child  
Chair of Governors