

Governors' News - Autumn 2022

Firstly, can we say a huge thank you to everyone for completing the parent/guardian survey. We value all the opinions and thoughts received. It was so lovely to hear what a caring and community led school Lavant CE Primary is. Behind the scenes we are busily compiling the data and starting to discuss ways we can improve and address any concerns you've raised. We promise to share the results with you in our next newsletter.

| Company | Comp

What did come out strongly was that many of you didn't know who the Governors were and what we have been working on. Going forward we commit to improving our communication and ensuring you know a bit more about us.

So what to Governors do?

We work together to carry out three core responsibilities:

- Ensuring the clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of pupils and performance management of its staff
- Overseeing the school's financial performance and making sure its money is well spent

Whilst not statutory, we also strive to:

Ensure the voices of stakeholders are heard

Here's a few highlights of what we've been busy doing last year....



Visior

Following the publication of the Government's White paper on the future of schools in 2022, we have visited several local academy schools to gain a better understanding of how they are operating, their successes and what challenges they face.

Government White Paper - Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Safety

Many parents voiced concerns about travel safety in our travel to school survey. We have been busy raising these issues with West Sussex Highways & Local Travel Improvement Programme teams. As well as getting local councillor support from Jeremy Hunt and Lavant Parish Council, we have met with representatives from West Sussex County Council to understand the process and hurdles to make improvements. Whilst this is likely to be a slow process, we hope that producing a video on the issues Lavant families face, will support our concerns.



Curriculum

As part of our commitment that pupils at Lavant school have a varied and interesting curriculum, we have ensured that Mr Rogers (music lead) has funds to purchase a full class set of glockenspiels, giving every pupil the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. We can't wait to be invited to the first performance!















Phonics & Reading Governors came to school to monitor how the new phonics scheme was being implemented and talk to children about their experiences of reading. We saw pupils actively learning the new phonics characters and engaging with the colourful and picture friendly phonics material. We also looked at the newly purchased phonics reading books, as well as how teachers record the progress and targets of pupils.



Following our discussions with pupils, Mrs Totman has researched and purchased more varied and interesting reads for Woodpecker & Pheasant Class. We have also challenged Mr King to look for more opportunities where pupils can read with adults during school, as we know just how important this is to them.

Pupil Premium

Our lead governor met with the Senior Leadership team to monitor how school was supporting these children and their families. They ensured that the school's proposed strategies were supported by strong evidence-based research and that pupils were benefitting from the National Tutoring Programme funding. Governors also challenged school to ensure that despite previous covid restrictions, these pupils continue to be supported to develop wider-curriculum activities including music.





Technology

Governors talked with staff and saw first-hand that our computer equipment needed replacing if we were to enhance user experiences and improve pupil outcomes. We are pleased to see that the 20 newly purchased laptops are in daily use and pupils are proud to show us some of their persuasive presentations. We have also challenged Mr King to ensure all pupils are developing their IT skills as they progress through the school, so we have set aside further funds to purchase additional

resources. We look forward to seeing some amazing coding from pupils this year.

Premises

As Governors we've ensured that flooded areas of school containing asbestos have been correctly dealt with and that school continued to operate safely whilst contractors worked on site. We have also worked very closely with Mr King to minimise pupils' disruption and provide temporary classrooms during the unfortunate events of this year. We hope you agree that the newly refurbished classrooms and hub look great. Also, after a successful funding bid, our KS1 flat roof was replaced over the summer holidays, which hopefully sees the end of any leaks!







Safeguarding

As part of our statutory responsibilities, Governors attended child safeguarding training, ensuring we understand our part in protecting the well-being of pupils.





Preparing for Inspections

To ensure everyone is ready and prepared, Governors invited Mike Simmonds, Chichester Diocese's Governance Officer, to share his experiences and expertise of Ofsted inspections.

Who are Lavant CE Primary Governors.....



Chris Hawker – Co-opted Governor Chair of Governors, Chair of Finance & Staffing

Chris has over 20 years of governor experience as well as an established career in IT. He sits on the governing body of a few other local schools including those in academies, which gives us a good insight

into what others do. He is also co-chair of West Sussex Governor Association, which looks to support and represent Governing Bodies across the county. Chris brings a wealth of knowledge on our statutory and compliance obligations and is lead Governor for Health & Safety, as well as Safeguarding.



Sally Steel – Parent Governor Vice Chair of Governors, Chair of Premises, Health & Safety

Sally is certainly passionate about improving the outcomes of children at Lavant CE Primary. Her

background is in Business Analytics, so she has a critical eye for the data and is always asking plenty of challenging questions to the leadership team. She's keen to listen to what children have to say and can often be seen busying herself in daily school life to better understand challenges they face. Sally is also lead governor for Fire Safety & Website so is regularly surprising staff & pupils with firedrills.



Caroline Rickard – Local Authority Governor Chair of Teaching & Learning

Caroline is a qualified teacher with a passion for maths. As well as tutoring, Caroline spends lots of her time mentoring and assessing trainee teachers. She brings with her many years of

governor experience and has a strong focus on ensuring pupils' progress and professional development of school staff. Caroline is also our representative Governor on recruitment panels to ensure we find the very best staff!



Mel Belderson - Parent Governor

Mel has been a governor at Lavant for 7 years. As our special educational needs & disadvantaged pupils lead Governor, she's always challenging school leaders to ensure they are striving to support every child to achieve. With a background in

finance, Mel also keeps an eagle eye on the budget as well as school maintenance.



Lorraine Foster - Co-opted Governor

With Lorraine's background in early years education, as well as having five grandchildren attend Lavant CE Primary, she's a strong advocate that we are always putting pupils at the heart of every decision we make. Lorraine is our Queen of policies and

procedures, verifying school keeps on top of them. With a love of spreadsheets and a career in procurement, Lorraine challenges to ensure we obtain great value on school spending.



David Peart - Parent Governor

With three children in Lavant, he's not short on being given plenty of advice on how to improve school! Using this first-hand experience, he's able to consider the impact of our decisions across the wider school community. David's corporate business background is a great asset to the governing body as

we continue to strengthen our strategic vision. Since joining as a Governor, David has also been analysing our existing contracts and spend, as well as championing safer routes to school.



Claire Spencer – Staff Governor

Firstly, a huge congratulations to Mrs Spencer for successfully completing her final teacher assessment year. Claire has been part of school life for many years and brings an unwavering passion for excellent

teaching to our discussions as a Governing Body. As we look strategically to improve school, Claire continues to champion pupil outcomes and ensure our decisions have consideration for staff well-being.



Michael Semple - Foundation Governor

We are currently in the progress of recruiting a new Governor, Michael Semple. As Foundation Governor, Michael, who is a retired minister, will look to ensure that Lavant CE Primary maintains its distinctive

Christian ethos. He will also take the lead on ensuring pupils receive a robust religious education and have regular opportunities to participate in collective worship. Michael comes with a formidable background in teaching as well as being a retired Ofsted Inspector. We look forward to working with him.



Revered Martha Weatherill – Incumbent of Lavant Parish Churches

Martha is Rector at Lavant Churches and plays a vital role strengthening our relationship with the Diocese of Chichester as well as the local parish churches. Her community links ensure we think strategically

about the future of the school and its importance of serving the local community. Martha and her team are frequent visitors to school, supporting our church assemblies.



Adrian King – Ex Officio Headteacher

Mr King has been on the Governing Body since taking the Headship at Lavant CE Primary in 2011. He can only be described as someone who gives it everything to better the lives of every single child

that comes to school. Thanks to his openness and desire to continually improve, we as a Governing Body have plenty of challenging conversations.



Carol Skeens - Clerk to the Governing Body

As well as a valuable Teaching Assistant at Lavant CE Primary, Carol is also Clerk to the Governing Body. Carol's role is to provide the Governing Body with professional advice on governance, constitutional and procedural matters. She is also meticulous at

recording everything we say in meetings (and it's a lot), as well as ensuring all our documentation and correspondence are up to date and distributed. We couldn't do without her!



Whilst not a member of the Governing Body, Mr Taylor attends our meetings as an observer and provides us with lots of detail on what the senior leadership team

VACANCIES



We currently have a vacancy for a **Parent Governor**.

are busy improving in school.

If you would like to know more, please contact Mr King .

Rupert Burton - Co-opted Governor