

From the Governing Body

A warm welcome both to new families joining Longwell Green School and existing ones!

I will be Chair of the Governing body during this academic year and I can always be contacted through the office or in writing at any time; Vice Chair is Mr Paul Staight.

Governors do visit the school both informally and formally and we have a Governor visit programme in place. As governors we need to see the school at work and we are monitoring and evaluating throughout the year.

As Chair of Governors I meet regularly with Mr Sibley who always presents reports at Governor meetings about the progress of the school. I enclose an overview of the work of the Governing Body for 2012/11 and I look forward to meeting with you at events during the year.

Mrs Elaine Skidmore
Chair



Full Governor's Review 2010/11

- All Committees' Terms of Reference & Structure reviewed and approved.
- Governor roles identified:
 - Pam Blackmore, SEN Governor
 - Elaine Skidmore, Child Protection Governor
 - Colin Gimblett, Health & Safety Governor
 - Chris Skudra, Early Years Foundation Governor
- Full complement of governors
 - 14 plus 1 Associate.
 - Mr Gary Lewis reappointed to serve 4 years as Local Authority Governor.
 - Mrs Pam Blackmore reappointed to serve 4 years as Community Governor (July 2011).

- Headteacher provides very good information to Governors (See HT's Reports). Report to Full Governors focuses on 'Values'. Headteacher has updated governors on the SEF and progress and the school improvement has been a focus at meetings.
- All governors have visited the school within Governor Visit Programme (Mr Barton, DHT, plans this). There is a Policy on visits and protocols. For 2011/12, the Programme has been reviewed and evaluated. By attending lessons, governors are able to gather information about the school at work. Reports from visits are made by governors.
- Inset Day in June 2011 with staff & governors - Review of 2010/11. Presentation on the results of pupil/parents/staff surveys. Workshop presentations on new initiatives.
- Governors have attended performances, assemblies and Chair of Governors attended the New Parents' Evening. Governors are helping at annual Friends of Longwell Green Summer Fayre in June.
- Nearly all governors have undertaken training with South Gloucestershire Governor Support, if not one course; several. They have also undertaken Modern Governor & E-learning training. Governor meetings have an agenda item for recent directives to discuss any new initiatives.
 - All governors have undertaken Safeguarding training
 - Locality 3 meetings attended
 - Two governors attended Annual Governors Conference (South Glos)
- There is feedback on Governor training at Governing Body meetings and training opportunities are identified; linked to the needs of committees.
- The Pay Panel met and, on the recommendation of Performance Management Reviews, increased Head & DHT's pay by 1 point.

Work Undertaken During the Year September 2010 - July 2011

- Governors have looked closely at National Benchmarking Data. Funding per pupil remains extremely low. Indeed, Longwell Green Primary School is the second lowest funded per pupil in South Gloucestershire (amount £2717 per pupil). This is having a huge impact on our budget and hard decisions have had to be made to balance.
 - The carry forward in May was anticipated to be just £8
 This disparity has been raised with South Gloucestershire and Chair of Governors is to discuss in the Autumn with Finance Officer.
- The Full Governing Body approved the Budget for 2011/12 in May 2011.
- We have also looked at the school's tracking & assessment of pupils and Mr Barton gave a presentation on pupil progress and pupils making two levels of progress.

- Three governors (Elaine Skidmore, Pam Blackmore & Carie Stainsby) undertook to interview small groups of pupils throughout the school about their teaching & learning. The results were discussed with Senior Leadership Team.
- The school carried out a review of the Home School Agreement and this was approved by Governors.
- The Chair of Governors has met twice with the School Council to discuss their work and explain the work of the Governing Body.
- At Full Governing Body meetings, we have had reports from Committees and approved and ratified policies from those Committees.
- 2010/11 saw an increase in complaints to the Governing Body. All of these were by the same complainant and there was one complaint regarding the School charging for activities that was investigated by a Panel of Governors.
 - Governors have reviewed the School's Charging Policy and are now of the opinion that this is applied correctly.
 - The Governors have also reviewed their Complaints Policy and in July 2011 adopted the Model Policy (South Gloucestershire Local Authority).
- As an outstanding school, we have been asked to support another school and the Governing Body agreed for the Headteacher to spend 1 day per week from March 2011 and possibly for the year ahead.
 - Other staff may assist and the school would be fully reimbursed.
- Governors are aware of continuing changes in Education provision and have agreed from September 2011, for one year initially, to work as an 'Alliance' with 2 other schools; Redfield Edge and The Meadows. Areas for collaboration include purchasing, best value and best practice. All 3 schools have the same Clerk to the Governors and the 3 Headteachers have met with the 3 Chair of Governors to discuss the benefits of working together.
- The Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Karen Llewellyn, is also employed as an Office Administrator at Longwell Green School. She is an experienced Clerk who is highly organised and efficient in her role.

Policies Approved

- Staff Handbook
- Charging Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Healthy Relationships Policy
- Freedom of Information Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Teacher's Pay Policy