

Governor's newsletter

Langham Village School

Welcome...

to the first governor newsletter for Langham Village School, keeping you informed of the activities and responsibilities of the governing body of Langham Village School.

In this issue...Governing body FAQs

What is the governing body?

The governing body is a group of volunteers made up of parents, staff, the headteacher and people from the community whose role is to provide strategic management and to act as a "critical friend", supporting the work of the headteacher and other staff at the school. There are two committees which oversee specific areas of school activity:

Committee A looks at Curriculum and Staffing issues;

Committee B has Finance and Premises responsibilities.

Who are the governors?

Matthew Coe - Parent Governor and current chair

Polly Kossowicz - Headteacher

Diana Howes - Staff Governor

Jeremy Bagnall-Oakley - Co-opted Governor, former parent at the school and previously Chair of Governors

Maggie Broad - Community Governor, Maggie has been a headteacher and also an Ofsted inspector

Denise Markham Wroe - with a focus on communication and publicity

Helen Ward - Clerk and former parent at the school

How are governors selected?

There are different types of Governors:

The Headteacher is part of the governing body as part of her role in running the school.

Staff Governors are appointed/elected by the school staff and serve for one year, unless re-elected.

Parent Governors are elected by the parents/carers of children at the school and serve for four years.

Co-opted Governors are asked to join the governing body to contribute specific skills such as legal skills, project management or human resources expertise.

What do they do?

Governors are responsible for the direction of the school and holding the headteacher to account, ensuring that the best possible outcomes are achieved for the children.

They set the budget for the school and monitor income and expenditure throughout the financial year to make sure the school keeps within the budget. They are also involved in purchasing and contract decisions to ensure the school gets the best value for money.

More specifically:

They meet regularly both in committee and twice a term as the full governing body to review activities and progress of the school. They create and review all the policies for the school. These stipulate how the school should operate.

They are involved in staff recruitment, most importantly of the Headteacher.

They visit the school regularly to monitor particular areas of responsibility, as well as to see the effect of their decisions.

They meet with external parties who come to assess the school, including local authority finance officers and Ofsted.

Sometimes they unblock drains and clear gutters too...!

What they don't do...

They don't get involved in the day-to-day running of the school. The governors may set objectives but how they are achieved is largely up to Polly and her staff.

It is also important to note that parent governors are expected to promote the interests of the whole school and all the children; so they can't take individual parents' issues to the governing body.

What have the governors done recently?

Broadband

The governors have been involved in securing a faster and more cost effective broadband service for the school. They recruited the help of Councillor Marie Strong to help understand the options available. The new service should be installed by November, 2016.

School Dinners

They have negotiated a new contract with Norse to provide school dinners. This contract not only saves the school £2,000 per year, but offers a wider choice of food with better support and training for the kitchen staff

Developer Contribution

As part of the Avada Homes' Langham Hotel planning application, agreed with North Norfolk District Council, Langham Village School has received £58,000 intended to benefit the education of children at the school. The governors were key in ensuring that this money was paid directly to the school, rather than being swallowed up in a general local authority education pot. With the contribution as a substantial basis, they are currently working on plans to redevelop Jet Class.

3 Goodbyes and 1 Hello

We are sad to say goodbye to Charlie Ward, Dave Dalton and Mary-Jo Hill who between them have clocked up over 20 years as governors and have been fantastic assets to the school.

We welcome Denise Markham Wroe who has joined to help us with communication and publicity.

What's happening next?

The Governing Board know the school has faced some challenges over the past few months, particularly in relation to pupil numbers, so we are very keen to ensure that all stakeholders involved in the success of the school have a voice and work together to ensure the school's ongoing success.

As part of Denise's remit she will be organising a Parent's Forum in the early part of next term. This will give parents an opportunity to attend an evening discussion to share their thoughts and suggestions about how to make the school even better.

There is also a Suggestion Box in the Reception area, so people can give their comments anonymously if they prefer and these can be discussed at the evening event as well.

How can I get involved?

We will be holding elections for a parent governor after the half term. If you think you would like to be involved in directing the future of the school you can nominate yourself.

You would need to write a short paragraph about yourself and why you think you would be a good parent governor.

You don't need to have any experience to be a parent governor, just a willingness to get involved and commit some of your time to the children. Full training and support is included as part of your role.

Watch out for notices and letters in your child's book bag after half term.

How can I find out more?

Minutes of the meetings are available online and at the office. Or speak to Matthew Coe directly. He can be found outside Quartz class at drop off or pickup times, or contacted on coe.matthew@gmail.com.