

Governance Newsletter - Autumn/Winter Term 2018/2019

Welcome to the first Governing Body newsletter of this academic year. We aim to distribute this newsletter once a term to update parents, families and carers on the work of the Governing Body at Halfway Nursery Infant School.

The three main roles of the governing body are:

- * agreeing the strategic direction for the school
- * acting as a 'critical friend'
- * ensuring accountability

Changes to the Governor Body membership

Liz Booth will be continuing in her role as Chair, supported by Jo Wallace as Vice Chair.

Carol Ions and Matt Sheridan have resigned as co-opted governors due to pressures of work and family life. It is important that school governance is consistent and transparent in approach, and as all Governor attendance is published externally, it is really important that our Governors can commit the time (and energy!) to the role.

We are hoping to welcome Raheel Khan as a new Co-Opted Governor this term. Raheel works within the Finance Business Partner team at the Department for Education, and before this was in the NHS in Management Accounts. Both these roles were working with budget holders supporting the management of financial accounts.

Members of the GB have a variety of skills and expertise, including safeguarding, project management, business management, legal services, research and education policy. However, we have been looking for a new Governor to fill our skills gaps in stakeholder and community relationship building. We have had a number of expressions of interest, which we will discuss as a whole Governing Body at our next meeting on the 24th January.

You can learn more about the role of the Governing Body [here](#).

What has the Governing Body been doing this term?

The school Governing Body have been busy with the new school year and planning its series of meetings and monitoring visits. Two Governing Body meetings took place last term and have considered our new school improvement priorities, budget management, governor recruitment and training, and staff recruitment into teaching and teaching assistant roles. In addition, Governors have been involved in Headteacher appraisal, partnership working with Halfway Juniors Governors, and exploring external funding opportunities for our buildings and premises.

Governor Spotlight - Catherine Hutton

Each newsletter will feature an overview of one of our Governors. Here's an overview of our Safeguarding Governor.



Around 2 years ago the opportunity arose to take on the role of parent governor. At this point our eldest daughter Emily had started in year 2 and was reaping the benefits of what Halfway Nursery Infants had to offer. Our youngest daughter Niamh had started in nursery so it seemed an ideal time for me to give something back.

Professionally, I am a Nurse at Sheffield Children's Hospital where I have worked for the last 18 years. My role involves me being involved in the care of children and young people with a wide variety of medical conditions from varied backgrounds. I am still learning new things every day, and am constantly faced with new challenges.

Since my girls have started in school I have tried to play an active role and help out where I can initially through the HIP group, helping with fund raising activities. Seeing life in school helps me to balance out some of the challenges I face at work and reminds me that the children I see in hospital are only a small proportion of the young people out there.

Becoming a governor has really opened my eyes to the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure our children are receiving what they need and progressing as they should, whilst balancing this against the resources available and the targets set.

In 2017 I took on the role of Safeguarding Governor. This was a chance to use some of my professional training and apply it to a different setting. In this role I have worked with the Headteacher and the safeguarding team in school to ensure that all the necessary policies and procedures are in place so that our children are safe in an ever changing world. I have also been involved in monitoring one of the school's improvement priorities around higher achievement in maths. Again, the many elements involved, and the way the curriculum is threaded into so many aspects of school life, never fails to amaze me.

I really enjoy being a governor and being able to support the school in the work it does. During the last two years as a governor there have been many significant changes, but the ethos of the school remains unchanged, with the children as the focus of every decision. I look forward to continuing this work with the rest of the governing body who are so passionate about the school and its future.