



## HALFWAY NURSERY INFANT SCHOOL – GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER no 3

Welcome to the first Governing Body newsletter of this academic year. We aim to distribute this newsletter once every half 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 Governing Body

We have a few changes to the Governing Body for this academic year:

Liz Booth - Chair of Governors

Jo Wallace and Jo Heery - Co-Vice Chairs of Governors

Catherine Hutton – Safeguarding Governor

We welcome Carol Ions to the Governing Body as a Co-opted Governor. Carol works for the Department for Education and has a wealth of experience in overseeing school governance in the region for Multi - Academy Trusts. Many of you will know her better as Neve's mum from Miss Hughes' class.

We also welcome Matt Sheridan who is joining the Governing Body as our Local Authority Governor, replacing Cllr Tony Dowling, who stepped down from the GB over the summer. Matt works for the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and brings knowledge of business services from around the region.

Members of the Governing Body have a variety of skills and expertise, including safeguarding, project management, business management, legal services, research and education policy. However, we are still looking for a new Governor to fill our skills gaps in the areas of finance and/or specialist knowledge of the primary curriculum. If you think you or someone you know might be interested in this role then please speak to Liz Booth (Chair of Governors) or Steve Varnam (Headteacher).

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

### **What have the Governing Body been doing this half term?**

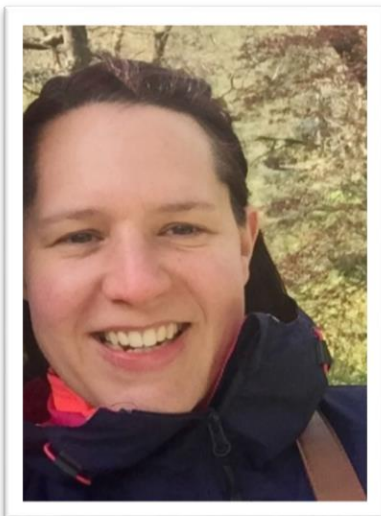
Most of our time has been spent planning and organising our activity for this year. This includes finding time to come into school during the day to conduct Governor monitoring visits. All Governors are committed to monitoring one or more of the School Improvement Priorities. This might mean we look at policy documents, conduct audits, talk to key staff members, look at samples of work from the children, or chat to them about the work they are doing. You can find an overview of our SIPs [here](#).

Supported by the Headteacher, the Governing Body have also had meetings with Halfway Junior School to discuss transition and strategies for working closely together throughout the year. We also met the Head of the Chorus Education Trust, Roisin Paul, to learn more about her plans for Westfield School, as it becomes part of this trust.

Liz and Catherine also attended the mandatory safeguarding training to learn more about identifying, monitoring and reporting the range of safeguarding issues which can affect infant age school children.

### **Governor Spotlight - Liz Booth (Chair of Governors)**

Each newsletter will feature an overview of one of our Governors. Here's an overview of our new Chair.



I have been a Governor at HNIS for 4 years and currently have daughters in both the Infant and the Junior school. I have lived in Halfway since 2010, after living in various parts of the city, but grew up in Aston - not too far away!

I work full time for Sheffield Hallam University - my profile can be found [here](#), under my maiden name [Liz Austen](#). I started working as a Lecturer in Criminology over 10 years ago, specialising in topics including illegal drugs use and anti-social behaviour. I researched drugs education for my PhD and have advised local schools and the Police on responses to local, regional and national drug policy. Recently I shifted focus, and I now research higher education policy. My recent projects have focused on measures of

teaching excellence, attainment gaps and differences in student experience - all very different to

primary education, but with a similar commitment to ensuring equal access to good quality education for all.

When I am not working or being a governor, I like to spend time with my family. I enjoy walking in the countryside, going on bike rides and I even try to run now and then (although I'm not very good at it!). As that all sounds too energetic, I will add that I also love lazy afternoons watching movies and eating pizza!

I really enjoy meeting and working with the children, families and staff at HNIS and supporting the community. I am often around school, but if you can't find me, do feel free to contact me on [l.austen@shu.ac.uk](mailto:l.austen@shu.ac.uk).

## Current Governing Body Membership



Liz Booth  
Chair (Co-opted)



Jo Heery  
Co Vice Chair  
(Parent)



Jo Wallace  
Co Vice Chair  
(Parent Governor)



Natalie Jackson  
Co-opted governor



Steve Varnam  
Headteacher



Claire Ball  
Associate



Catherine Hutton  
Parent Governor



Carol Ions  
Co-opted governor



Teresa Barker  
Parent Governor



John Beazer  
Clerk

## The Next Issue!

In our next newsletter we will feedback some of the highlights from our monitoring visits to school and the impact new initiatives are having on outcomes for all our children. We will also feature another 'governor spotlight'. Look out for the next update at the end of December.