

## **Heronshaw School Governing Body**

### **The role of the school governor and governing bodies:**

The School governing body is responsible for working with the school to ensure that it delivers a good quality education. Together with the headteacher, who is responsible for day-to-day management, we set the school's aims and policies. The role of the school governor is demanding but very rewarding and is a good way to give back to your local community.

### **Governors have three main roles:**

- To provide strategic direction for the school
- To act as a critical friend to the headteacher
- To ensure accountability

### **They also carry out a number of other important duties, which include:**

- Determining how the school's budget is spent
- Hearing appeals and grievances
- Forming policy on the school's curriculum
- Setting standards for pupils' behaviour and discipline
- Making sure school buildings are welcoming and safe
- Setting and monitoring the school's aims and policies

### **The Governing body consists of:**

- Chair – Danielle Chapman
- Vice Chair – Davine Ngani-Oketch
- Headteacher – Jamie Ainschow
- Staff Governor – Gemma Langford

Danielle Chapman is the Chair of the Governing Body. Correspondence for the Chair and any other governor can be sent c/o School Office, Heronshaw School, Lichfield Down, Milton Keynes, MK7 7PG

### **Who can be a school governor?**

You don't have to have children at the school to join the board, unless you are applying to become a parent governor. You have to be over 18 and pass a safeguarding check for your suitability to be within a school. No specific qualifications are required but there are certain expectations. What's really important is that you have energy, enthusiasm, time and a real desire to help provide children with the best possible education.

Our governors come from all sections of the community and all walks of life. They are parents, staff at the school, residents in the locality and representatives of local businesses. It is important that you can work as part of a team and can give commitment to the school to include attending governor meetings (six per year), training and school visits. Advice, support and training for the role is given by IFtL. Some governors are elected by parents, some by staff and some are appointed by the governing body itself. This ensures governing bodies reflect the communities they serve.

## **Governing Body vacancies**

We are always looking for people interested in becoming governors at Heronshaw School. Governors work closely with the headteacher, school staff and representatives from the local authority (LA). If you require further information on the roles and responsibilities of school governors or you are interested in becoming one, please speak to Jamie Ainscow.

### **The expectation of individual governors is that they will:**

- enhance the work of the governing body to enable a strong focus on raising standards, so that every child achieves their potential
- demonstrate their commitment by getting to know the school and becoming involved in school life and activities
- take personal responsibility for their ongoing training and development
- prepare for meetings so they are well informed, having at minimum read all of the papers sent out with the agenda
- attend meetings (governing body/committees/working group) and play an active part
- support the school with parents and in the community
- recognise the corporate status of the governing body and the concept of collective responsibility
- respect confidentiality and the need to act with circumspection

### **Term of office and meetings**

The term of office for a school governor is normally four years. We have a full governing body meeting once a term. You are required to join a committee which usually meets once a term. Most governors find they usually attend meetings or visit a school three or four times each term. You may be invited to special occasions such as assemblies, sports days, plays and presentations.

We hope this information has been useful and should you have any comments or questions please do not hesitate to contact school. If you want to know more, please come and see us at the next Parents Evening.

Danielle Chapman

Chair of Governors