



# Governor Newsletter

## Summer 2018

### What is a

### Governor?

Governors are a group of volunteers that includes staff, parents and members of our local community.

Our main role is to use our skills and experience to promote ongoing improvements in standards throughout the school.

We help Mrs Summers and her staff plan the school's longterm direction and we evaluate progress. We help set the school's aims and values and are responsible for some staff appointments, including the Head.

Many of our responsibilities carry a statutory requirement. This means we are obliged by law to do things such as agree the annual budget and ensure school policies are in place. We also monitor school results. Some of us are responsible for monitoring specific areas of the Curriculum, like Maths, PE or Humanities. We also monitor things like Pupil Progress and Pupil Attendance.

Most of all, we are there to ensure that our school continues to help our children be the best they can be.

**Ofsted 2018 -  
"The School  
Continues to be  
Good"**

### Summer 2018

#### From the Chair

As we approach the end of another school year (as difficult as that is to believe) there are many things to celebrate since our last newsletter. Firstly and most importantly a huge congratulations to Mrs Summers, the teachers and all of our pupils for an excellent Ofsted result. Having been involved in the process I can tell you at first hand how challenging an inspection can be and how hard it is to earn the strong opinions of the inspector, well done all!

As Governors, we have very much enjoyed hearing about trips and activities within and out of school and it has been great to see School so well integrated as part of our community at Prom Art. I also particularly enjoyed the play last week, some very talented pupils and a well

organised and produced performance from Mrs Whinfield who even gave up her birthday for the event, massive thanks for that.

I can't let this pass without mentioning FROGS and all their hard work, thank you for everything that you have done for school in the past 12 months.

We have made a change to the governing body and Rev Andrew Norman is now a full member of the group, I'm sure you will join me in welcoming him and recognising the enormous contribution that he makes.

Watch this space too as we have a parent governor vacancy coming up in the Autumn term. Also I am sad to say that I am standing down as Chair of Governors in September. I intend to stay

on the governing body for another twelve months. I have enjoyed my time as chair but couldn't have done the job without the support of my fellow governors and all the staff. I owe them all a huge thank you for their support, encouragement and challenge. Although my own children have left Grange I also need to thank them and my wife for supporting me in my role as Chair over the last three years. I am very proud to have been Chair and would like to wish all in the school well for the future.

On behalf of all of the Governors at Grange School may I wish you and your families a very happy, healthy and sunny summer and thank you for all the contributions that you make to our school.

#### Who are we?

##### Staff Governors

Phillipa Summers, Paula Whinfield

##### Foundation Governors

The Revd Andrew Norman, Gill Webster, Judith Mitchell

##### Local Authority Governors

##### Hello and Goodbye...

This year we have said goodbye to Christine Harrison, Foundation Governor who has moved from the area to be nearer family and welcomed Gill Webster into the role of Foundation Governor. Trisha Thomas has recently joined our governing body as a Co-opted governor.

Dr David Wheatcroft ( Chair)

##### Parent Governors

Kelly Walsh, Oliver Wignall, Matthew Evans

**Co-Opted Governors** - Brian McCann, Trisha Thomas

## Working Together

We work closely with other Governors in the Cartmel Peninsular to make sure we are following best practice and to save money on any training we attend. Recent training attended by our governors includes:-

**General Data Protection Regulation training** to provide governors with the information and confidence to meet the expectations on schools and governors with the changes which came into force on 25th May 2018.

**Understanding Data**—helping governors to feel confident in interrogating data for schools.

**Promoting positive wellbeing for staff and pupils**

**Safer Recruitment Training**

**New Governor Training** (attended by all new governors)

**Health & Safety Governor Training**

## Church and School Links

As a Governing Body we are very proud of the links between our School and our Parish Church. In addition to the weekly round of Collective Worship, it has been wonderful this year to see the Wednesday Bible Club go from strength to strength, supported by volunteers from St Paul's with around a fifth of the school coming along to look at different stories about the life of Jesus. Year 1 visited the Fell Church again in the Spring Term to talk and think about Baptism and its meaning, and just recently Year 2 have been down to St Paul's to look at the building, its meaning and the symbolism of what it contains. At Candlemas, Year 2 enjoyed the annual tradition of making candles and thinking about Jesus the light of the world. It was good to welcome in the past few weeks the Saltmine Theatre Company who put on a production of 'The Book of Hope' and for the Year 6 children to have a morning thinking about their transition to secondary school down at St Paul's. Revd Andrew seems to spend quite a bit of time in school, and so it was lovely to be invited to take part in a Question and Answer session with Year 1 answering lots of different questions from 'do you like sausages?' to 'what happens when we die'. A highlight in the year was the visit of Bishop Libby Lane, the first woman bishop in the Church of England, in March for a Question and Answer session with Years 4, 5 and 6 and for her to lead a special Collective Worship for the whole school. This is just a small glimpse of some of things that have been going on this year, and as a result it was wonderful to see the Christian character, ethos and values of the school receiving commendation in our Ofsted report earlier this year. We hope that these will go from strength to strength.

## Restructure

Our School Governing Body restructured along with guidelines which was fully discussed and approved at the FGB on 27th September 2017

We currently have a vacancy for a co-opted governor and would welcome anyone interested to get in touch with the school.

**The Makeup of our governing body is as follows:-**

- 3 parent governors
- 1 LA governor
- 1 staff governor
- 1 headteacher
- 3 foundation governors
- 3 co-opted governors
- Total Governors 12

### The Inspector

says ...

“Pupils enjoy

coming to

School and say

that learning is

fun”

### School Library to open after school on Fridays starting from September

Following on from the Summer Reading Challenge at Grange Library, Governors have agreed to keep the library open after school on a Friday until 4.15pm for the autumn term. If this is successful then it will potentially be extended.

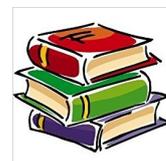
Governors will check books in / out and this will allow more time for parents/ carers and their children to look at the books available across all year groups. It is a chance to encourage reading for fun across

school and also for parents to see the range of books available.

We look forward to seeing you in September!

Judith Mitchell -

English Governor



## The Role of Committees

### The Leadership, Management and Finance Committee (LMF)

Membership includes: the Chair of Governors, Headteacher, Chairs of the Community, Environment and Wellbeing committee and Teaching and Learning Committee and the Vice Chair if not already attending. Governors with other roles are invited to attend meetings to lead on specific agenda items as appropriate. The purpose of the committee is to pull together the various threads of work developed with the committees and feed them in to the Governing Body's annual strategic plan. A main thrust of the committee is finance, working closely with the independent bursar. In turn this achieves the smooth running of the full Governing Body meetings **Dave Wheatcroft (Chair)**

**The Teaching & Learning Committee** have continued to support the school, ensuring that there is a good quality and standard of teaching throughout the whole school and within all subject areas. In our termly meetings we pay particular attention to Special Needs and safeguarding, making sure that all children are cared for and supported. Governor visits have taken place in RE, English, Maths, Science, Humanities, PE and the Early Years Foundation Stage and we have all been impressed at the quality of teaching in these areas. The visit by OFSTED and their subsequent report confirmed these findings. As a committee we would like to say well done and congratulations to all the children and staff. In the Autumn Term we will continue with our programme of visits, in addition being mindful of the areas highlighted for improvement in the OFSTED report. If you have any comments or queries relating to teaching and learning, please raise them either with Mrs Summers, a Parent Governor or myself as chair of the committee. **Gill Webster (Committee Chair)**

**Community, Environment & Wellbeing Committee (CEW) focuses** around areas such as the Health, Safety and Wellbeing of both Pupil & Staff, maintaining and building new links into the local community, and making sure that the school premises and asset base are maintained and improved upon on a continual cycle.

## Governor Monitoring

In the school year 2017/2018, Governors carried out 18 monitoring visits, with reports produced for each. These reports check that the school is delivering the National Curriculum effectively and looks at other areas, such as Health & Safety and our website.

This year there have been a number of H&S surveys of the school and a number of changes brought about as a result, including changing how pupils and parents access and egress the school, grounds maintenance to ensure some of the larger trees are not becoming overgrown, and replacement of fence lines around the nursery play area. An output from the recent pupil survey showed an encouraging trend that overall pupils feel Grange Primary School is a safe place to be. Not forgetting the Teachers, we also had a Wellbeing session for the staff to make sure they are as supported as possible as they move through the busy academic year. There have been a number of activities ongoing to make sure the school building is in good condition, and using school funds and funds kindly donated by FROGS to continually improve the premises. Some of the work undertaken this year includes repairing the library roof, new playground equipment (with more to come this summer!), decorating of the Nursery building and purchase of a new store for some of the outdoor play equipment. A highlight from a community perspective was seeing the pupil and staff involvement in this year's Remembrance parade, flying the flag for Grange Primary School in what was a busy and well celebrated parade in Grange. Another busy year making sure that the School is a safe and inspiring place to encourage the pupils to learn and thrive, thanks for everyone's continued help and support.

**Matt Evans (Committee Chair)**

## Read All About It

Don't forget, you can visit our Governors Page on the school website, in the 'For Parents' section.



## Pupil Parliament

In June it was a great privilege to attend as School Council Governor the termly meeting of the South Lakes Pupil Parliament along with Mrs Jameison and our School Council representatives from Years 5 and 6. It was a really good day, during which the children took part in a debate talking about contemporary social challenges and whether growing up today was more difficult than for older generations. We also learned about Parliamentary Select Committees and had the opportunity to provide some evidence to the select committee thinking about the effect of energy drinks on children today. The Pupil Parliament team were really impressed that Grange CofE Primary had invited a Governor to come along, and so its good to see our school blazing that particular trail.