



Shepherds Down Governors Update

Hello and welcome to the first School Governor Newsletter. As the Governing Body at Shepherds Down School, we are keen to keep you informed and updated on how the school is performing. We plan to issue a regular newsletter to keep you informed. In this issue we will introduce ourselves and explain what we do.

Our role is to make sure that **objectives** are met and **planning** for the future is both aspirational and realistic, and we ensure the **school's finances** are well spent. We are here to support and encourage the Headteacher, Senior Leaders and teaching staff as a 'critical friend' and maintain our commitment to achieving the highest standards of education.

We are very proud of our children and the school community and we would like to thank all parents and staff for the support they give. We are delighted to support Shepherds Down School as it gives children with complex needs the best start in their education.

Specifically we as a governing body:

- Ensure clarity of **vision, ethos and strategic direction** of the school
- Hold the headteacher to account for the **educational performance** of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Oversee the **financial performance** of the school and determine how the money is spent

We also:

- Performance manage the headteacher
- Monitor policies on school curriculum and analyse pupil performance
- Set standards for pupils' behaviour and discipline
- Make sure school buildings are welcoming and safe
- Set and monitor the school's aims and policies

Who can be a school governor?

You don't have to have children at the school. However, you do have to be over 18, and pass a formal check for your suitability. No specific qualifications are required but there are certain expectations of attendance and contribution.

If you are interested in joining our Governing Body please contact our Clerk - Trudy Hill at the school reception.

How is the governing body made up?

There are a number of different kinds of Governor:

- Parent Governors - parents of children at the school
- Staff Governors - members of the school staff
- Authority Governors - nominated by the Local Authority
- Co-opted Governors - members of the local community (appointed by the rest of the governing body)

Who are the Governing Body at Shepherds Down?



Sam Powell (Chair) - Co-opted Governor (5 Years)

I started as a Parent Governor wanting to help to ensure all children at Shepherds Down receive the same nurturing education as my daughter did whilst at the school



Bob Senior (Vice Chair & Chair of Finance Committee) - Local Authority Governor (23 Years)

I am an Authority Governor and Chair of the Finance committee. I live in Otterbourne and became a governor to apply my skills as an accountant to something worthwhile in the local community



Alison Marlow - Parent Governor (3 Years)

I believe every child can make meaningful progress, I have a special interest in the curriculum. Being a governor is interesting and rewarding and I enjoy being part of our school community



Beverley Jewkes - Parent Governor (1 Year)

As a governor, this is my opportunity to get involved and give something back - I'm proud of what we do as a governing body and love supporting the school



Marcel Grant - Parent Governor (1 Year)

As a Parent Governor I joined the governing body to help with looking at the long term strategy for the school, and to get the best out of our allocated budget



Peter Fellows - Co-Opted Governor (4 years)

I have been a classroom volunteer for 7 years and a governor for 4. I am in awe of the wonderful work the staff do, and am happy to play whatever part I can to support the great work the school does



Alex McWhirter - Co-Opted Governor (14 Years)

I started as a parent governor in 2003 to get involved and to support the school in delivering the best education for our children. I am also a Governor at Osborne School in Winchester



Sarah Sansome - Staff Governor (7 years)

I joined the Governing Body to represent the LSAs. As the largest group employed by the school, it is important we are represented and are linked in



Rosie Fearn - Staff Governor (6 months)

I wanted to be a governor as I am passionate about Shepherds Down and I want to make a difference for the staff and children. Giving them both the best experience possible



Trudy Hill - Clerk

As Clerk I am responsible for convening meetings of the governing board

Finally a big farewell and thank you to **Louise Vardy**, our previous Chair and **Fiona Bate** for their contribution and the support they've given to the school in this time.

If you are interested in joining our Governing Body please contact our Clerk - Trudy Hill at the school reception, we currently have two vacancies for Parent governors and one Community governor.