

## Meet the Governors

**Chair:** Jane Erving

**Vice-Chair:** Lauren Fitzjohn (Parent)

**Parents:** Nikki Stark, Kashan Pervaiz, Jessica Gane

**Co-Opted:** Jim Gordon (Parent), Clare Spiller, Sarah Badham, Paul Goring, Heather Prentice

**Local Authority:** Cariad Comfort

**Head Teacher:** Gary Tucker

**Clerk:** Lesley Lodge



# WOODMANCOTE SCHOOL | Governor Newsletter – 2023

| DECEMBER 2023 |

## Governing Body Update

Welcome to the first governor newsletter of the school year. It has already been an eventful year, with Ofsted visiting in September and several sporting, fundraising, and academic events taking place. As a governing body we have said goodbye to Laura Galley (Staff) her passion and enthusiasm for education is a real asset to the school and this has shone through in her contribution and time on the governing body. We have also successfully elected a new Co-Opted Governor, Heather Prentice, who brings with her a diversity of experience from her role in local industry.



### Role of a Governor

For those new to the school, the newsletter looks to communicate the role of the Governing body and how we work with the school leadership team to support the best educational needs and provision for those at Woodmancote Primary School.

Our objectives:

- Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.



### Governor Committees

There are three committees that support our role, with the safeguarding committee continuously running in parallel.

**Full Governors:** Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction; that the curriculum is implemented and meeting the educational needs of the children; that safeguarding arrangements are complied with in line with legislation.

**Finance and Premises:** Overseeing the financial performance of the school; ensuring that money is well spent; that the premises continues to support the educational needs of the children.

**Staffing:** Overseeing the wellbeing, appointment, and management of the staffing community.



*This term as part of continual personal development, the governing body have attended safeguard training specifically focused on ensuring the school is developing a safe culture, supported by the correct policies, processes, and structures within the school. As well as familiarising ourselves with the Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) setup and how this might apply in the future.*

## Update from the Chair

I don't know about you but I'm finding it hard to believe that Christmas is almost upon us and that nearly a third of the school year has already passed! Nevertheless, it has been a busy start to the new school year. As you know, we had our long-awaited Ofsted inspection in September. It was good to have it so early in the academic year and the outcome was very positive. My thanks to everyone – staff, governors and parents – who contributed.

The Governing Body has made a few changes this year, following an independent review of our processes. We've changed our committee structure a bit, resulting in fewer committees, because the number of meetings we were generating was a little onerous for those who had to attend most or all of them. We now have just 2 committees (Finance/Premises and Staffing). Safeguarding is monitored by the Safeguarding governor and Curriculum and Standards is now monitored by the Full Governing Body, since it is really the core of what we, as governors, are here for. We'll see how things go and will make further changes if we need to.

We've also made some changes to our visits into school, aligning them with the objectives of the School Development Plan so that we can ensure that the plan as agreed is being delivered. If you have any questions for governors, or issues you'd like to raise with us, do contact me at [chair@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:chair@woodmancote.gloucs.sch.uk). Alternatively, you might catch one of our parent governors around the school- they are Jessica Gane, Nikki Stark, Kashan Pervaiz and Lauren Fitzjohn.

## Governing Body Meetings

During the Autumn Term all committees have met. A range of issues were discussed and agreed including:



- Reviewed terms of reference and updated policies.
- Produced three-year capital investment plan for the school.
- Updated budgets to reflect new pay settlement.
- Submitted 6 month return to GCC.
- Reviewed the staff structure and school priorities.
- Taken regular updates on safeguarding issues.

As part of our monitoring responsibilities, governors are involved in ensuring the school is making good progress towards achieving the actions in the School Development Plan. We have achieved this through school visits.



- Paul Goring: School improvements team introduction.
- Jane Erving: Maths Curriculum discussions.
- Cariad Comfort: Curriculum monitoring and action plan review.
- Claire Spiller: Safeguarding reviews.



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