

Whittingham C of E Primary School Governors Welcome.

On behalf of the governing body I would like to extend a warm welcome you to our school. Whittingham is a wonderful primary school in the heart of Whittingham village. We are a rural school and have strong links with our church, St Bartholomew's and the local community.

We are a strong, supportive Governing Body working in partnership with the Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team, to help determine the strategic direction of the school, set priorities for development and improvement and perform an ongoing monitoring role to ensure the best outcomes for every child.

It is with great pleasure I write about the role of the governing body of the school on our new website.

Our Governors are drawn from several areas:

Co-opted- Governors elected by governing body for the skills they bring.

The Church - Foundation Governors are appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education after consultation with the Parochial Church Council. The Vicar of the Parish is also an ex-officio member of the Governing Body.

Parents - Governors elected by the Parents/carers.

Staff - A Teacher Governor is elected from among the teachers at the school. The Headteacher is also a Governor.

Local Authority - appointed by the LEA.

Our main role is to support the Headteacher and the staff – the phrase often used to describe this role is 'a critical friend'. We help to set and reach targets and to strive for excellence across the whole spectrum of school life. The key document used for this is the School Development Plan (SDP) Our legal duties include:-

- setting strategic direction, policies and objectives
- approving the school budget
- reviewing progress against the school's budget and objectives
- appointing, challenging and supporting the headteacher

As the key strategic decision-making body of school and we set the school's strategic framework, agree the strategic priorities, aims and objectives for the school and sign off the policies, plans and targets in order to achieve them. We check on progress and regularly review this framework for the school in the light of that progress.

As Governors we need to know our school. We do this through visits to see the school in action, we check that the school is implementing the policies and improvement plans we

sign off, and see for ourselves how the vision and plans for the school are working in practice. While it is helpful to see classes at work, Governors are not inspectors and it is not our role to assess the quality or method of teaching. As such the Governing Body leaves the 'day to day' running and leadership of the school to our headteacher. It is then our role to support and strengthen this leadership and to hold the head teacher accountable for the performance of children and staff.

All our Governors bring with them a range of different skills and experiences. Decisions are taken by the whole Governing Body, but to make the best use of everyone's time and expertise, all Governors also join one of two committees. Committees work on particular aspects of school life and present their recommendations to the Governing Body for approval or discussion. In addition to this the headteacher and Chair of Governors meet on a weekly basis to ensure to that we are on track with any plans and targets.

Our Governing body must meet as a whole for three statutory meeting per year, however it is common for governors meet as a committee in between such times to work on their specific committee areas. The head teacher and Chair of Governors sit on all committees.

Our dedicated and hardworking Governing body are committed to ensuring Whittingham Church of England Primary School offers a safe, supportive and inspirational learning environment whereby all children are nurtured to achieve their full potential, and our small rural school continues to achieve GREAT things.



Whittingham

CoF E PRIMARY SCHOOL