

Governing Body Meetings Autumn Term 2019

The Governing Body has met twice this term. We should like to share the following from our discussions.

In the summer term meetings, we agreed to look at our meeting structure to make sure that through it we can best support Acorns pupils and staff and be fully prepared for any future OFSTED inspection. In September a group of 7 of us met and discussed this. We agreed to put to the whole governing body that, rather than having two separate committee meetings, ALL governors are invited to attend a combined meeting. This was accepted by the other members of the governing body. Individuals said that they felt this would help them to understand all areas of school better.

At our full governing body in November we elected our Chair for the year 2019 / 20. I was very happy to stand and was therefore elected.

In addition, at this meeting individual governors recommitted their willingness to follow a wide-ranging code of conduct which emphasises the importance of their role. They also agreed to link with areas of work within the school and classes – both parents and children will, we hope, see us as familiar faces in school this year.

Governors had a full and very interesting discussion about annual reviews and the reporting system to parents. Parent governors present at the meeting felt the new reporting procedures were very helpful and they enjoyed looking at them and learning about their child's progress. Parents will be aware that as part of the review process the school may need to discuss the "banding" of a pupil – this in effect dictates the amount of money made available to support his/ her needs. Governors felt that this is perhaps best done as a separate "negotiation" between the local authority with full input from parents / carers. We would be interested to hear your views.

Early in the term we hosted a visit from County Councillor Phillipa Williamson who was newly appointed in the summer as the lead member for Children and Young people on Lancashire County Council. Gail Beaton and I took the opportunity to showcase our lovely school but also to make her aware of the challenges that the school faces particularly in terms of our building. It was a very friendly visit and hopefully our points were taken back to County Hall!

As always as a Governing Body we welcome the views of parents / carers on any matter.

Mandy Howarth November 2019