# Governors' Newsletter October 2018

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you have all settled into school life, especially our newer families that have joined the school this year. The School Governors continue to support the tremendous work done by the staff at the school.

Governors are volunteers who have an important part to play in raising school standards by providing strategic leadership and accountability in schools. Listed below are the members of the current governing body with their areas of responsibility shown for this academic year:

| School Governor | Responsibilities for 2018/19 |
|---|---|
| Oli Rahman | Chair, Child Protection & Safeguarding |
| Julia Gallagher | Local Authority Governor - Co-Vice Chair, Finance |
| Sarah Axtell | Co-Vice Chair, Standards, Achievement & Curriculum |
| Hildi Mitchell | Head Teacher Staff Governor |
| Hannah Gates | Staff Governor - Income Generating Projects |
| Niall Howell | Premises, Health & Safety |
| Katie Salvidge | Inclusion (Pupil Premium & Special Educational Needs) |
| Claire McCann | Personnel |
| Tony Fallowfield | Parent Governor – Finance, Inclusion (Pupil Premium & SEN) |
| Laura Dinsdale | Parent Governor - Standards, Achievement & Curriculum |
| Tim Moore | Parent Governor - Income Generating Projects |
| Andy Croll | Parent Governor - Income Generating Projects |
| Anita Bullock | Standards, Achievement & Curriculum |
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**We are currently looking for some new governors to join the team** as a number of our existing group are approaching the end of their four year term. You can be a parent, carer, grandparent or even a motivated, local resident. The most important attribute we are looking for is a desire to support the school in its mission to provide the best it can. We are guided in our efforts by the School Development Plan; a document that is constantly being adapted by the teaching staff to ensure we tailor our efforts to match the needs of our pupils.

If you would like to support the school and help make a difference, please can I ask you to submit a short account of yourself and what you feel you could bring to the role (max 200 words). Forms should be submitted to the school office by **3.00pm on Friday 9th November 2018.** We are the hoping the new governors will be able to join us at the next Full Governing Body meeting which is scheduled for Wed 12th December 6pm-8pm.

We are particularly interested in those who have experience in scrutinising and monitoring budgets, dealing with 'personnel' issues, or familiarity in 'premises, health and safety' related matters. Although skills in these areas are desirable, they are not essential. We are keen to ensure that the membership of our governing body reflects the diversity of the pupils in our school and community. Therefore, we welcome applications from under-represented groups.

The commitment we expect from our Governing Body involves up to six evening meetings a year, a variable number of day time visits to the school to explore specific issues and report back to fellow governors, plus a commitment to attend governor training. The successful candidate will be appointed for a four year term.

What do our governors say about being a governor?

> "I've been a governor now for 6 years here at Downs and have benefited so much from the experience. I love knowing I'm contributing to the school that has done such a great job nurturing my three children in their first school years.
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> When I signed up I remember feeling nervous I would be out of my depth, or that it would all be very serious and intimidating. I hadn't expected I would learn so much along the way, have so much fun being part of a committed team, and feel even more a part of the community I live in. I'd encourage anyone interested to speak to Oli or any of the governors to find out more."

Further information about the School Development Plan and the job that a school governor does can be found on the school website. Feel free to contact me via the school office and I will be happy to answer any questions you have about the role of the Governing Body.

**Oli Rahman**

Chair of Governors, Downs Infant School