

Message from the Chair of The Governing Body

Wow! What a challenging start to the new term and I don't think I have ever been prouder to be the Chair of Governors at Mayfield. Governors, staff and pupils have tackled COVID with amazing resilience and a readiness to give their time and effort to support each other throughout this unprecedented year. Everyone has worked really hard to find our new normal and for us Governors that means zoom meetings, lots of emails and WhatsApp's whilst maintaining our site visits in a socially distanced fashion.

This half term has seen the launch of the Mayfield app, the new school starting to look like a school and compliance visits to make sure that the school is doing what it is telling us they are doing. As Governors we have tasted the school dinners, sat in on lessons, undertaken SEN learning walks, looked at ways to develop the BAME agenda, chatted to the pupils and staff and helped to develop the school improvement plan as a way of holding the school to account and the one thing that shines through is that the Mayfield family continues to be a place of support and learning.

I hope everyone has a very restful half term break and comes back enthused for the run up to what for many may be a very different Christmas.

Best wishes,

Sara Williams
Chair of the Governing Body of Mayfield School

I thought it helpful for individual Governors to produce a 'pen portrait' of themselves so our community can get to know us better. I will kick things off with mine below!

Meet the Governors (Mrs. Sara Williams – Chair of the Governing Body)

I have been a Governor at Mayfield for the last 9 years – the last 4 as Chair. I love it!

I have two young adults both of whom went to Mayfield, both of whom are resilient, resourceful and really good people. I'm proud of them and I'm proud of my role in what they still call "their school". I want every pupil to have the chance to be the very best person they can be and myself and the rest of the Governing body work hard to hold the school to account and make that happen.

Being a Governor is a huge challenge and a huge commitment but in my opinion, it is worth every second of effort. I'm hugely fortunate that my employer supports my role and sees the benefits not only to the community and to my personal development but also to them as an employer.

As a Governing body we divide up roles and we all act as champion for certain areas. I am the service pupil champion (a subject close to my heart as a service family) and I love to challenge the school to go above and beyond what is legally required of them to support the large number of service pupils in the school. I'm also Chair for the full Governing body meetings and attend curriculum meetings and scrutiny meetings.

During my tenure we have developed a strong school ethos with a uniform to match, we are a vertical tutored all through school, our behaviour policy has meant improvement in pupils' attitudes to

learning 10 fold and we have shaped the building of a new school. When I visit the school, I see dedicated staff and motivated pupils. I really can't think of any better reasons to be proud.

Update from committees

Apart from on site, often unannounced, visits. The Governing Body also form a number of committees to systematically review key parts of the school's work and provide support as well as challenge. Here is a brief overview from the chairs of each committee relating to the areas they have looked at over the last 7 weeks:

New Build Committee

Aside from the usual monthly progress review meetings with the Department for Education, Portsmouth City Council and of course our main contractor, Kier, as the build progresses. Governors have also been active in additional meetings on various matters connected to the new build such as fixtures and finishes, ensuring the correct provisions in terms of colour palette and suitable contrast for those with visual impairments and a calming environment for our pupils with SEND; the new Transport plan covering road and pedestrian safety, a new innovative CCTV system for building security, rebuilding of the new school wall perimeter and finally ensuring a first class IT and network infrastructure. The breadth of experience the Governors bring from their own **backgrounds** are driving the project to deliver the best **possible school that will be part of the community** for many years to come.

Elizabeth Crooke
Lee Nolan
Richard Buchan
Jason Crouch

Personnel, Finance and Estates Committee

The Personnel, Finance and Estates Sub-Committee have continued to meet (virtually) twice a term to support and challenge the school leadership on critical decisions about how best to allocate resources when running a successful school.

The Headteacher (Mr. Jeapes) and Director of Business Operations (Mr. Stedman) have done a great job in managing the school budget and supporting the staff through difficult times and have ensured that the school are in a sound financial position.

Some of the key activities:

- Supporting the adherence to Statutory Obligations by having the responsibility to review a large number of the school policies;
- Performing periodic compliance checks to ensure the school is well prepared for the upcoming Financial Audit;
- Supporting the transition to the new build. Some members of the committee have been very active and critical to ensuring that the school gets the best solutions in the new build come Summer 2021;
- Continually scrutinising the financial performance and budgeting setting for the year ahead.

Stephen Pople – Chair