



**Governor Information**  
**Booklet**

## A Word from the Chair of Governors

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Calmore Infant School and thank you for choosing to find out more about the role of the Governors in our school.

The job of the school governor is an increasingly important one and over the past few years the role has become absolutely crucial in helping to raise school standards.

The governing body is here to help promote high standards and support the school in various ways. The governing body exists to:

- Support the school to set high standards by planning for the school's future and setting targets for school improvement
- Be the driving force behind school improvement
- Be a crucial friend to the school, offering support and advice
- Help the school respond to the needs of parents and community
- Make the school accountable to the public for what it does
- Work with the school on planning, developing policies and keeping the school under review
- Exercise its responsibilities and powers in partnership with the headteacher and staff

The headteacher is responsible for leading the school, and the staff as a whole to manage the day-to-day activities of teaching, support and planning together with the background work that goes with it.

If you are considering becoming a Governor, the job seems daunting at first, with some paperwork, new jargon etc. but we will support and guide you over the coming months. I guarantee you will find it very interesting and give you an in-depth knowledge of the successes and challenges of running a school.

There is a training course especially for new governors which you will be enrolled on in due course. This will provide you with the basic skills and knowledge. However, just as important to us is the knowledge and skills that you bring to the Governing Body.

I hope this guide gives you an insight into what we do as a Governing Body. Look out for the regular school newsletters that often include governor news.

Regards

Dave Hills

Chair of Governors

[dave.hills@calmore-inf.hants.sch.uk](mailto:dave.hills@calmore-inf.hants.sch.uk)

our children  our future

## What are the Expectations of a School Governor?

We expect our Governors:

- To be interested in education and children's development generally but especially in our school
- To have an open and enquiring mind
- To respect confidentiality
- To show a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- To ask questions and challenge
- To have a desire to play a part in improving our school
- To be able to work well with others as part of a team
- To attend 5 'Full Governing Body' meetings during the year. These meetings are held at school on a weekday evening and usually last approximately 2 hours
- To attend 3 subcommittee meetings during the year. These meetings are often shorter than full body meetings
- To attend 'Governor Induction' training, and further relevant training, either in-house to cover an area or as provided by Governor Services
- To take responsibility for an area within our school, make visits to that area, and compile a report to be shared at next governors' meeting
- Keep up with changes in government/Ofsted expectations

What can you expect if you apply to become a Governor?

- To be welcomed as part of a team, whatever your background or previous experience, who are committed to putting the progress and well-being of all our children first
- The support of our Headteacher, Governors and Governor Services
- Free training on a variety of topics to support you in your role in various locations
- A chance to develop new skills, or enhance previous experiences and build a strategic view of the school
- To be involved in the self-assessment of the school's provision and understand its strengths and areas that need to be developed and work together to support these developmental areas
- To be part of making key decisions about finance, staffing, curriculum, property and site, safeguarding whilst balancing the strategic needs for the future
- The opportunity to work with our team of Governors and staff in improving our school which is an on-going task. We can never stop improving!
- A sense of achievement in making a difference to our school and all our children
- The pleasure of seeing children learning and seeing for yourself the decisions you have made as a Governing Body positively affect the learning opportunities of all our children
- To spend time with the children and find out what they think
- To be invited to have lunch with the children!

## What is the role of the School Governor?

Governing Bodies can vary in size but they all have the same requirement to work together with the Headteacher in agreeing the aims and conduct of the school. This is to ensure that all pupils have a full entitlement to the agreed curriculum and managing the school within its allocated budget.

The Governing Body consists of:

- Parent Governors
- Authority Governors
- Community Governors
- Staff Governors

Governor responsibilities:

- An ability to support and challenge when necessary
- Accountability to the community for the use of resources and the standards of teaching and learning in the school and children's attainment and progress
- A strong link between the school and community it serves
- Work within a team focusing on long term development and improvement
- A visible form of accountability for the Headteacher and staff of the school

Governing Bodies are the strategic planners of schools, in order to do this the governing body:

- Has an operational manager (the Headteacher) who is responsible for the day to day management of the school
- Agrees policies and practice which allows the Headteacher the necessary tools to carry out her responsibilities
- Agrees principles and targets for improvement
- Acts as the critical friend of the school and Headteacher
- Receives and discusses reports on the resulting practice and conduct of the school
- Reviews its own working practices

Governing Body's effectiveness will be assessed in Ofsted inspections and these questions asked:

- Does the Governing Body consistently communicate high aspirations for pupils?
- Does the Governing Body demonstrate advice to improve or maintain higher levels of achievement and developments for all pupils?
- Does the Governing Body question and hold senior leaders to account for all aspects of the school's performance?
- Does the Governing Body ensure financial stability and effective and efficient management of financial resources e.g. Pupil Premium?
- Does the Governing Body really have a deep and accurate understating of the school's performance and staff and pupil skills and attitudes?

One of our school Governors says this about Governor visits:

One of the most pleasing and rewarding aspects of being a Governor is visiting our school!

'It is such a great way to get to know our Headteacher, her staff and, most importantly, our children. Visits provide us with such an insight into the way our school works. I believe they help us to govern more effectively, and with a greater understanding of the challenges and issues there are in schools today.

You will be made most welcome by everyone, and if your time permits you will be put to good use.....perhaps listening to children read, or sitting in at an Assembly or with a class. You are likely to be assigned to a specific area of mutual interest e.g. maths, art, drama, health and safety and will 'buddy up' with the member who champions that subject....coming into school to spend time with them is invaluable too. Your feedback after speaking to the staff and children about your subject will be reported back to the Governors.

It is entirely up to you how many times you visit, but at least once or twice a term is ideal, you are sure to enjoy it, have great fun learning and finding out more about children's progress.

If that were not enough of an incentive, you can even arrange to stay for the best reward of all.....a scrummy school dinner! They really are good!

### 2019 School Improvement Issues

For your information, these are the school and governors' key priorities for 2019-20:

Continue to provide 3 teachers every morning for YR 2 children to ensure high quality teaching and learning and the best outcomes possible.

Continue to staff and provide Nurture to support positive behaviour in school and positive attitudes to being in school and learning.

Update and revise curriculum areas to ensure all children have access to the best learning opportunities across different subject areas.

our children  our future