

In September 2020 we welcomed a new face to the Governing Body - David Savage as an Associate Member (the governing body can appoint an Associate Member to serve on a committee and attend full governing body meetings but with no voting rights). In addition, at the very end of 2020, we held a parent ballot for a parent governor vacancy and Catherine Beard was appointed to the governing body. This meant there are now 12 governors and the Associate Member.

<b>Foundation Governors</b>
Mags Ratford – Chair of Governors, EYFS lead governor, Maths lead governor, Governor Induction and Deputy Safeguard Governor, all committees and ‘3 in 1’ liaison group
Mike Vaughan – Vice Chair of Governors, chair of Finance and Resources committee, Health & Safety lead governor
Mark Carden – Finance and Resources committee, English lead governor, ‘3 in 1’ liaison group
Reverend Caroline Bland – Ex officio Governor, Communities and Values committee , Religious Education lead, ‘3 in 1’ liaison group
Kathy Lee – chair of Communities and Values committee, Science lead governor, Well-being governor, ‘3 in 1’ liaison group
Steve Huggett – Curriculum and Standards committee, Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) and Pupil Premium governor, co Humanities governor
Dan Robinson – Finance and Resources committee, Sports governor, co Humanities governor
<b>Staff Governors</b>
Gary Price – Headteacher, all committees and ‘3 in 1’ liaison group
Pete Feldon – Assistant Headteacher, Communities and Values committee
<b>Parent Governors</b>
Julia Finlow – Chair of Curriculum and Standards committee, PSHE lead governor
Catherine Beard – Remote learning, Modern Foreign languages governor, marketing group lead
<b>Local Authority Governor</b>
Jo Moore – Safeguarding governor, Art and Music governor
<b>Associate Member</b>
David Savage - ‘3 in 1’ liaison group and marketing group

### **The role of the governors**

Governors are not involved in the operational matters of the school, we have a strategic role to:

- Ensure there is clarity in the vision, ethos and direction of the school.
- Hold senior school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of its staff.

- Oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent.

**How do we do this?** - during this academic year we have monitored the school by holding:

- 6 Full Governing Body meetings and this includes scrutiny of the Headteacher's reports, the school's action plan and progress against the items identified on this.
- We also have governors with a subject area responsibility. They have discussed and monitored their subject with the school subject lead and reported back to full governors on the subject areas of Maths, Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND), Science, Humanities, Modern Foreign Languages, Reading Catch-Up, Religious Education, EYFS and remote learning.
- Work is delegated (on behalf of the governing body) to committees in the areas of Curriculum & Standards which has met 3 times and looked more closely at children's progress and attainment, SEND provision, remote working, the school action plan and subject monitoring in more detail.
- The Community & Values committee have met 3 times and examined the religious education teaching and school values provision, along with the results of pupil well-being surveys in March and May this year, along with a parent survey and a staff survey held in the summer term.
- 6 Finance and Resources meetings that have scrutinised staffing, the completion of performance management, the 3-year budget plan and regular presentation of the school accounts. health & safety matters including continued involvement in reviewing the school's COVID 19 risk assessment.
- There is a '3 in 1' liaison group that have met 3 times which includes some governors, some of the Parochial Parish Council and a representative from the Parish Council to help co-ordinate the school's use and the 'community' surrounding the church/'3 in 1' building.
- We have also recently set up a marketing group to ensure a regular flow of numbers of children to the school and to find even more ways to celebrate the fantastic things that go on at school. There are regular 'snippets' on the school Facebook page.

With the COVID 19 pandemic that has dominated this year nearly all of this has had to continue as remote working, although there have been some face-to-face visits to school, particularly in the summer term to mirror the nation's approach to relaxing restrictions. Despite this, it has still been an effective way to monitor and challenge what has both been going on in school and in the remote working the school has had to do too.

### **What else have governors been going during 2021?**

Some of the other work of the governors has included:

**Safeguarding** - The safeguarding governor attended a staff meeting to give a different angle on Safeguarding matters, Whistleblowing and Early Help.

**Policy Reviews** - The governors have helped with the regular cycle of policy reviews and ratified policies relating to Behaviour, Anti-bullying, Health & Safety, several HR related policies, Safeguarding, Relationships and Sex Education, Finance, Attendance, Admissions and Data Protection and a few more.

**Interviews** - The chair of governors has been involved in the interview for the part-time teacher for Badgers and the 3 new teaching assistants for September 2021.

**Training** – The new parent governor this year attended 'New to School Governance' training.

**Parent survey** – The governing body was very grateful to the parents who completed the parent survey in June this year. There were 44 responses received out of a potential population of 75 families.

The responses help to build a picture of what the school is doing well and what it may need to reflect on and improve. It also helps to monitor that the school is meeting the needs of its children and families, and parents help with this is really appreciated.

The results were very pleasing overall – bearing in mind that this is a snapshot in time and one that follows a long period of COVID 19 pandemic and disruption to education.

**Improvements to safety and new developments** - The application to the Diocese Board of Education through the School Condition Allocation application process to repair the lighting on the path to the church from school and the driveway was made. There was work by governors leading up to this in the specification and costings to support this, and work with school to develop a Premises Development Plan that had to go with the application. This laid out the future care of the premises and possible future developments. The application was successful! The work has been done during the school summer holidays and completed in August 2021.

We have also been working on a possible capital project to utilise the Section 106 Nupend Development money held for the school's capital project use at Gloucestershire County Council. This is looking again closely at the feasibility of a toilet in the infant area of the school. This could provide a toilet that is more accessible, which would meet the needs of younger children, mean less disruption to teaching and learning, and provide improvements to toilet facilities at the school.

In addition, there has also been on-going involvement with the church and community to try to achieve a better solution for the path and driveway - a topographical survey has now been done which was necessary to apply for a faculty (Diocese permission) and the design work is currently being costed.

**Finally, yet most importantly on behalf of the governing body**, I would like to thank everyone at school for their hard work and total dedication to children's education and well-being, and to the children and their parents, through the hard times it has been for everyone this year.

A thank you to the governors too, whose work goes on behind the scenes as outlined here, to monitor and challenge the school, carry its statutory duties and responsibilities and to give its support the school too.

Horsley School is and continues to be an amazing place, with amazing people – children, teachers, staff, parents, school leaders and governors!

Mags Ratford  
Chair of Governors  
On behalf of the Horsley School Governing Body