



Fairway Governors Newsletter

Summer 2016

Welcome

From the Governors of Fairway Infant School

Since our last update, the Governors have yet again seen changes and challenges and have continued to work with the school and West Sussex County Council following our previous Ofsted review in 2013, in preparation for the most recent view which took place just before the February half term.

The Governing Body has implemented a yearly self-review of its performance and impact on the development of the school and we were delighted that the Ofsted Inspectors agreed with us that we are indeed a 'Good' school which has 'Good' leadership and management.

Frances Strickley, Chair of Governors said "Mrs Davison and the staff have worked incredibly hard to bring the standards of the school and its performance to meet Ofsted's expectations of a 'Good' school. We have worked alongside them to create an ethos of high expectations of educational achievement.

The Governing Body itself has gone through considerable change over the past couple of years and I cannot thank the Governors enough for their hard work and dedication in giving up their free time to work with the school to achieve a fantastic result. Of course, it doesn't end here!"

"We have worked closely with the School to create an ethos of high expectations of achievement"

*Frances Strickley,
Chair of Governors*

In Remembrance

You will be aware of the news that our dear friend, John Withyman, who was our Premises Manager & Associate Governor passed away unexpectedly on February 14th. The Governing Body have been shocked and saddened by the news of his passing. He always ensured the school was looked after to the highest standards to provide a safe and secure environment for all our children and staff, despite the challenges this presented at times; keeping the Governors up to date on all matters to do with premises and health and safety.

He will be very much missed by all his colleagues and friends on the Governing Body and we will continue to benefit from his contribution and support of our school community for many years to come. We send our deepest sympathies to his family.



DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 2300 Governors throughout West Sussex, all volunteering their time, knowledge and skills to support schools and colleges in our region.





Update on Ofsted

Although you will have seen the Ofsted judgement directly from the school, we are very proud of the work we have done to address the issues raised in the last inspection.

Some of the key findings include:

"The Governors have introduced rigorous systems to check the quality of the school's performance."

"The Governing Body have made substantial improvements to the effectiveness of their work."

"The GB now have an accurate and unbiased view of how effective the school is."

"They manage the financial resources of the school well. They make sure the performance management systems are robust and that pay decisions for teaching staff are closely linked to performance."

The Governing Body has already prioritised the areas highlighted below as needing continued improvement in the Ofsted report and so they remain a key part of the school development plan.

- Ensure more pupils achieve the highest standards in reading, writing and maths.
- Provide more opportunities to practise and improve handwriting.
- Continue to find more engaging ways of teaching phonics.
- Expand opportunities to explain mathematical problem solving.

"The Governing Body now have an unbiased view of how effective the school is"
Ofsted Judgement

We have no doubt that under current leadership, the school will continue to improve and will easily address the remaining points raised by Ofsted.

Focus for 2016 & Beyond

Some of the key areas of focus for the Governing Body this academic year include;

- Approve the Fairway Governing Body Annual Governance Statement and publish to wider community.
- Continue to maintain regular skills auditing to identify strengths and gaps in knowledge to ensure we are as effective as possible.
- Regular training and development, both in the school and externally with West Sussex County Council.
- Continue to monitor and review our Governors' action plan, ensuring it dovetails with the school development plan and ensures the school meets its priorities.



- Continued self evaluation and monitoring of the effectiveness of the Governing Body.
- Remain a 'Critical Friend' to the school and support the Senior Leadership team in achieving its targets and goals.
- Maintain a Governors presence at events throughout the school

The Role of the Governing Body

For those parents joining the school community for the first time, below is an outline of the role and responsibilities of the Governing body and maybe useful if you know someone who would like to be involved in supporting Fairway and the wider community by becoming a Governor.

Our Governing body operates within a legal framework and we are members of the National Governors' Association.

We aim to do the following:

- To be a 'Critical Friend', to support and challenge the school and to be there to hear about difficulties and together take positive steps to improve the school for all our children.
- To provide a strategic function of ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of our school.
- To monitor and evaluate educational progress of the school against agreed targets.
- Oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure money is well spent.

Children's Safety Outside School

Safeguarding Children is a priority at Fairway so it is essential that all children are accompanied into the school grounds, without exception.

Please remember to slow down and where possible remember the voluntary one way system during pick up and drop off.

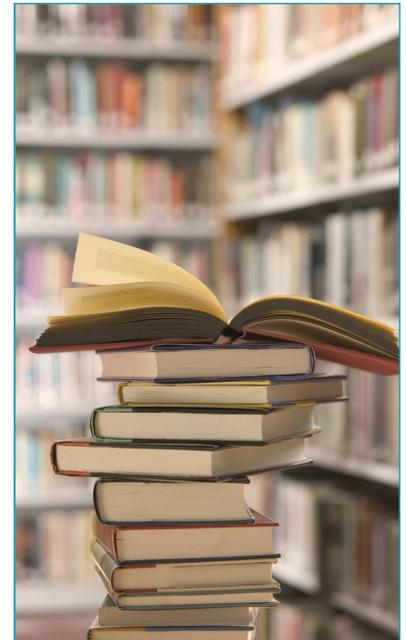
Please do not park across residents driveways.

Do not park on corners, at crossing points/dropped curbs or the grass verges — it makes it difficult to cross safely.

Parking safely, but further away from the entrance may mean a short walk to or from the school, but this should not present a problem for most children and adults.

*Please make every effort
to consider others
on the school run*

It is our collective responsibility to keep our children safe during the school run and we encourage everyone to challenge dangerous and thoughtless parking.



Did you know?

There are over 2300 Governors throughout West Sussex, all volunteering their time, knowledge and skills to support schools and colleges in our region.

Can you help?

We are currently recruiting for non-parent Governors to join the Fairway Governing Body.

If you know of anyone that would be suitable, please contact the school office or email governors@fairway.w-sussex.sch.uk for more details.

Our Governing Body

Frances Strickley, Chair & Parent Governor

Frances lives in Copthorne and is married with 2 boys at the school. She is a full time solicitor, dedicated to her family and is passionate about the community she lives in. She considers her role as a Governor a real privilege and an exciting opportunity to better serve the school, its children and parents alike.

Julia Hickman, Vice & Co-Opted Governor

Julia is full time mum at present and has four children ranging in age from 5-14, two of which are currently at Fairway. She is a qualified nurse and used to work in an A&E department, with experience in burns and plastics. Family commitments take up much of her time, but it does offer flexibility to contribute to voluntary activities.

Bridget Davison, Head Teacher

Bridget was appointed Head Teacher of Fairway in January 2011. She has worked in each stage of the primary age range, in a variety of schools throughout her teaching career. She feels privileged to work with such lovely children and with the dedicated team.

Clare Berryman, Staff Governor

Clare is class teacher for Busy Bees in Year 2, her favourite part of working at Fairway. She is also Deputy Head, supporting the Head to ensure the school's vision and mission are delivered. She is also SENCO (Special Education Needs Coordinator) responsible for ensuring all children have equal opportunities to reach their potential. She has been teaching for 16 years. She enjoys the Governing Body role because it means working alongside people with different skills and talents with a collective aim of making the school the best it can be.

Marion Hartigan, Staff Governor

Marion has lived in Copthorne for over 18 years, with her family, including her 3 children, who went to Fairway. She has been a Teaching Assistant since 2007. Since being appointed a Staff Governor, she has enjoyed the challenge and continues to support the school from a different perspective than the classroom.

Jill Creek, School Business Manager & Associate Governor

Jill has worked at the School for over 14 years, initially as a teaching assistant and now as School Business Manager. She is an associate member of the Governing Body and reports on school finances and premises. Her children attended Fairway.



Our Governing Body

Susan Halliwell, Clerk to the Governors

Susan has been Clerk to the Governors for more than 15 years. Both her children attended the school and both are now at University. Susan has a very specific responsibility to ensure meetings conform to legal requirements and that we are operating within the legal framework of a Governing Body.

Jemma Parsons, Parent Governor

Jemma has two boys, with one at Fairway and has lived in Copthorne since 1996. Joining the Governing Body has given her the opportunity to see behind the scenes and to offer support to the school. She has a commercial background and is Head of Marketing for a local Audio Visual Company.

Peter Murdie, Local Authority Governor

Peter moved to the local area from London where he had a job working with schools. He now works with Universities but has always admired the enthusiasm and passion schools have (and their biscuits!). He thinks being a Governor is a great opportunity to use some of his experience and skills for positive effect and gain new ones too.

Jan Roberts, Co-Opted Governor

Jan joined the Governing Body in 2014 and brings an unbiased view as she is not personally connected to the school though family or work.

Alison Worrall, Co-Opted Governor

Alison lives in Copthorne with her family with one of her children in Year One. She was keen to join the Governing Body to help make the school a place every child feels proud to attend. She is a qualified accountant and hopes her background in finance will be of benefit to the school. She cares deeply about the community and also helps out the local Copthorne Beavers.

Andrew Apps, Co-Opted Governor

Andrew has two children at Fairway and is married to Emma, who went to the school herself. He believes in the school aims and ethos and views the governorship as a means to supporting the Headteacher in maintaining them for all the children and staff. He has served in the Army for the last 16 years and now works at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court.

The Governing Body Vision Statement 2015-16

We are committed to positively and robustly govern the school; ensuring continuous improvement that supports the schools' high expectations for our children's learning; creating a happy, caring and safe environment; in order for all our children to fulfil their learning potential.

