The Governors of The Weald and Downlands Schools Federation

Welcome to The Weald and Downlands Schools Federation. There has been a growing need for the Governors of all schools to be far more available to parents and to the community that their school serves. Successive Governments have placed more and more responsibility on Governors for the performance and general management of the school, reducing the role of the Local Education Authority. As such there is a need to communicate what the Governors are seeking to achieve and have achieved at Harting School. This webpage is part of that process.

The role of the Chairman is one of 'first among equals' in that the Governing Body makes decisions as an entity not as individuals, with many aspects of the school being addressed by specific committees. Besides having to meet statutory and regulatory requirements the Governing Body is responsible for maintaining the ethos of the schools – as a Community school and as a Voluntary Controlled school.

The Governing body of our Federation has been amended to meet the new requirements placed upon such bodies. The Governing Body comprises representatives from the Local Authority (LA) of West Sussex County Council, co-opted governors, Church of England, parents and staff. All Governors work a fixed term of 4 years, except for the Ex-Officio Staff (Head Teacher) and Foundation Governors, though terms can be renewed.

Parent Governors are elected by the parents of registered pupils at the schools. The Schools will advise parents when vacancies for Parent Governors become available as a result of a Governor standing down or completing their term.

LA Governors are nominated by the local Education Authority.

Staff Governors are elected by the staffing body (teaching and non-teaching) and include the Head Teacher.

Co-opted Governors are appointed by the governing body to represent community interests or to bring specific skills to the governing body.

Foundation Governors are appointed by the Diocese and are involved with the Church of England.

Associate Governors are appointed to provide specific skills to the governing body e.g. finance

Our current Governors

Co-opted	Ciani Foulkes Vida Stewart (Vice Chair) Jeff Ace (Chair) Mark Leah 2 x vacant
Foundation	Reverend Harriet Neale-Stevens (Ex-Officio) Jane Thwaites
LA	Vacant
Parent	Tamsin Cormack Vacant
Staff	Nick Tidey (Ex-Officio – Headteacher, Harting) Malcolm Meaby (Ex-Officio – Headteacher, Stedham) Claudine Clarke (Staff Governor)
Associate Governors	Iain Gibbons
Clerks to Governors	Pippa Bass Contactable via the office at Stedham office@stedham.w-sussex.sch.uk 01730 813522 and Polly Woodford admin@harting.w-sussex.sch.uk 01730 825388 (works Wed – Fri you can leave a message at other times)

What the Governors do?

The Governors make collective decisions as part of the governing body whose primary function is to help raise the educational standards and performance of the school, by supporting the work of the Head and the staff.

The governing body is answerable to parents and the wider community.

The Governors' role is strategic; they make important decisions on how the school is run. The day-to-day management and operation of the Schools is the responsibility of the Head Teachers.

Some of the Governors' responsibilities include:

- Promoting high standards of achievement
- Planning the school's long-term future
- Setting and ensuring the maintenance of the school's aims, values and ethos
- Ensuring that statutory requirements are met
- Budgetary allocation and control
- Appointing senior staff

Our Governors hold a meeting once a term of the full governing body as well as regular meetings of the Curriculum, Personnel, Finance and Premises sub-committees. Governors also support various initiatives in the Schools.

There are four main groups that meeting on a regular scheduled basis:

The Full Governing Body - Deals with general matters across the school and those escalated from the committees.

Resources (Combined Finance and Premises) - Manages the school budget, supports the school development plan, ensuring financial integrity. Handles the operational aspects of the schools' buildings ensuring all legal requirements are met.

Personnel - Handles matters relating to the recruitment, employment and performance monitoring of staff and behaviour of pupils.

Curriculum - Monitors the pupils' progress and achievement against agreed targets (including SATS), Curriculum content and ensuring the Curriculum meets the legal requirements.

How Do I Contact a Governor?

You are very welcome to contact the governors with news of any ideas or concerns you are having with your child at the school. We make every effort to make your child's time at the Federation Schools School as good as we can, but we know there is always room for improvement.

Parent Governors are often to be found at the school at the start and end of the school day. If you wish to write to a specific Governor, this can be done by addressing the letter and handing the letter in at the school office for the Governor concerned. Letters to the Governing Body should be addressed to the Chairman and delivered in the same manner. Of course, emails can be forwarded to chair@harting.w-sussex.sch.uk , we await a Federation email domain.

While we welcome letters and value your comments, initial complaints and issues relating to the day to day running of the school, should in the first instance, be referred to the Head teacher.