

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first edition of the "Governors Newsletter".

One of our aims as governors is to improve our contact with parents and carers and to raise awareness of the work we do. The governing body can often appear remote from the everyday life of a school and for many parents the role it plays is often not clear. The results from the parent questionnaire would indicate that this is the case at Cold Harbour. Hopefully the introduction of our Governor newsletter will go some way to help address this issue and, as a result, provide a better understanding of who we are and what we do.

In this first edition, I want to introduce you to the members of the governing body and tell you about some of our responsibilities. It is our intention to send out regular newsletters and in future editions; we will be sharing with you some of the issues of interest and our plans in relation to school improvement.

The Governing body has a clear focus on raising standards and improving performance within school. It is fully involved in the strategic planning and supports staff to implement policies.

The Governing body makes collective decisions as a team and works very closely with the Head teacher, Mrs Ryan to deliver the aims and objectives of the School Development Plan.

Governor Responsibilities:

Although Mrs Ryan, as the Head Teacher, is responsible for the day to day management of the school, it is the responsibility of the Governing body to:

- Agree the aims and values of the school
- Agree and work towards the School Development Plan
- Review and agree school policies
- Set and monitor the school budget
- Appoint staff
- Ensure the children are taught the National Curriculum
- Ensure the needs of all children are met
- Review safeguarding procedures
- Deal with complaints
- Review Health and Safety within school

Membership of the Full Governing Body:

There are currently 10 members of the governing body. Our constitution includes: The Headteacher, 3 parent governors, 2 Foundation governors (appointed by the Diocese), 2 co-opted governors, a local authority appointed governor and a teaching staff representative,

Please see below our full governing body profiles:

Christine Ryan. Head Teacher



I was appointed as Head Teacher at Cold Harbour CE School in September 2016. Prior to this my first headship was also in a Milton Keynes school - Lavendon School. During this time I was delighted to take the school from Good to Outstanding in all Ofsted areas. I have taught in schools in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes in a variety of rural and urban settings.

Prior to entering teaching, my career was as a Chartered Biologist working for a pharmaceutical company. With a family of four children and my love and passion for Science, I was fascinated at their capacity to soak up knowledge. I then entered into teaching with the aim to provide a love for learning and opportunities to experience 'wow' learning moments.

Sharon Power. Chair of Governors



I have worked for Milton Keynes Council for 5 years, and previously I worked for Shelter Housing Advice service supporting families with housing issues. I live with my husband and 3 children in West Bletchley.

My older children both attended Cold Harbour School and my youngest child is currently in Year 3. As a Parent Governor, I am very keen to support Mrs Ryan and the teaching staff to provide the best possible learning experiences for the children.

Felicity Cockbaine. Co-opted Governor



I am a retired primary teacher having taught mainly in London. I moved to Bletchley 17 years ago while teaching in Dunstable. I've been a parish councillor for West Bletchley for 6 years now and first became a community governor at Cold Harbour as the parish representative. I also work at the Radcliffe school as an exam invigilator and sit on education appeal panels.

Darren Ashpole. Parent Governor



I have lived in or near Milton Keynes for the last thirty years (except for a period away at university in Bristol & Berlin). I am a qualified accountant with most experience in recent years having been in large technology companies. I currently have two children at Cold Harbour.

In my spare time I enjoy reading and outdoor activities with the kids, including although not limited to, Geocaching & Pokemon Go.

Rev'd Matt Beer. Foundation Governor



I am a local Vicar here in West Bletchley as part of the team at St Mary's. Before moving to Bletchley I was at theological college in Cambridge. Previously I was a youth worker at a local church. I also have experience working in a Primary school teaching sport and PE. I have a passion for local communities, seeing change for good in people's lives and how that intersects with faith. I really enjoy gardening and taking the dog for a long walk.

Steph Horvath. Staff Governor



I have been a teacher at Cold Harbour for the past 6 years. I currently teach in Key Stage 1 with Woodland Birds and have done for the past 2 years. Before that I taught Water Birds in upper Key Stage 2 for 4 years. I really believe that the children are the centre of what we do and that this school can offer them everything they need.

Sandra Webster. Local Authority Governor



I have lived in Milton Keynes for many years with my family. I have worked professionally in health, education and social care settings. I hope to use my knowledge and experience to the benefit of the children who attend the school.

Jo Grant. Co-opted Governor



I live locally and my kids are pupils at Cold Harbour School. I love to support the community we live in and have previously volunteered at the pre-school before becoming a school governor. I hope that we can support the head teacher and all the staff, challenge decisions and ask questions where necessary and work together to continuously improve the school for all our children. My professional background is in Performance Improvement, HR and Training. I have worked on business redesign, process improvement and IT system implementation and outsourcing projects. I can often be seen whizzing up to school on my scooter.

Penni Powers. Foundation Governor



I moved to Milton Keynes when I married my husband 13 years ago. I am a qualified accountant, having over 20 years' experience of local authority school funding. I am a member of St Mary's Church Bletchley and can often be found in the tower, volunteering on their Sound and Vision Team. In my spare time I enjoy playing badminton and engaging in Fitbit challenges with friends to walk the most steps weekly.

Rubaiyat Afrina Ahsan (almost everyone who knows me calls me Ruby). Parent Governor



I am a brand new parent governor, joining Cold Harbour School in Feb 2017. As a qualified accountant and with over 10 years' worth of experience in the finance sector I am always keen to contribute my knowledge and skill for a good cause. Some of my voluntary works in the past included serving a charity hospice in Bangladesh with their office management and also a child rescue centre in Kenya with their accounting and budget system. Fittingly I have joined Finance, Personnel and Premises Board in the school to hopefully add some value to the school.

I consider myself an avid reader, a movie buff and also a travel enthusiast. All my spare time is spent with my only daughter and husband...☺

How to contact the Governors:

We are often in school visiting children and staff or attending events and celebrations and are always happy to hear from you. We can be contacted via the school office or email at:

sharon.power@coldharbour.milton-keynes.sch.uk

Kind Regards,
Sharon Power
Chair of Governors