



# Governor's Newsletter

Kings Cliffe Endowed School Governing Body Newsletter

ISSUE 1 October 2014

## Hello and Welcome

I'm delighted to bring you our first Governor Newsletter. It is an aim of our school's governing body to improve communication and links between governors, staff, parents and children. Hopefully this newsletter will meet part of this aim.

Through the newsletter we plan to share with you who the governors are and what we do. There is a list overleaf which gives a quick run down of who we are. In addition to the 10 governors listed, our meetings are attended by our Bursar,

Joan Cunningham, who is the Clerk to the Governing Body.

In this newsletter the intention is to provide an outline of the role of Governors at our school. In future we will aim to provide information about our school and look at long-term plans.

You may get in touch with any one of us via the school office. Call 01780 470259, or write to: Care Of Kings Cliffe Endowed School office, Park Street, Kings Cliffe, PE8 6XN, or drop a note in at the office in person.

## Governing Body work this Term

Here is a small cross section of the work Governors have done since the end of the summer holidays. It is by no means a full description, but seeks to highlight some important activities:

### Transition to 2-Tier Education - Progress

The Governors would like to thank all those parents, and members of our community, for participating in the consultation events held at our school last year. As you will have seen we have now moved into the 'Statutory Notice' Period of four weeks (commencing from 15th September). During this period physical notices are displayed prominently detailing the planned changes – these are on the school gate and at the School Office. Subject to no appeals being presented, NCC is scheduled to make their final decision on November 11th. The Governing Body is working closely with NCC to ensure that all contingency planning that is possible at this stage is being carried out. As Chair, I sit on monthly meetings of our Cluster Group

so all local Chair's and Vice-Chair's can share progress, information and experience. I also sit on the Two-Tier Transition Steering Group, which again meets monthly, and works to monitor the planning and, subject to agreement in November, the implementation of the transition. More information about this and the transition are contained in the NCC Cabinet briefing papers which can be found at:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/councillors/Pages/Cabinet.aspx>

And: [http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/consultations/Documents/School-Consultations/EastNHants\\_2nd\\_Consultation\\_Report.pdf](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/consultations/Documents/School-Consultations/EastNHants_2nd_Consultation_Report.pdf)

### Getting Ofsted Ready

We are anticipating an Ofsted inspection at some point in the near future and the school has been busy preparing itself for this. At our last Ofsted inspection in 2010 we were deemed an 'Outstanding' School. Since then there have been many, many positive changes. We also recognise that there are some things that haven't gone so well and require improvement. We have a detailed



## What is the role of a Governor?

Governors are a group of volunteers who include parents, staff and members of our local community. Our main role is to promote ongoing improvements in standards throughout the school. We help the head teacher and staff plan the school's long-term direction and we evaluate progress. We help set the school's aims and values and are responsible for some staff appointments, including the head. As many of our responsibilities carry a statutory requirement, we are obliged to do things such as agree the annual budget.

Our role is sometimes described as a 'critical friend'. This does not mean that we are there to criticise the head or the school. Instead we try to ask useful questions to gain a greater understanding of the school and to foster an ethos of continuous improvement.

Our team of Governors provide support to the school in a number of ways, using our experience from various backgrounds. We are here to ensure the school's performance is evaluated and continuously improves, to provide the strategic direction for the school and to ensure legal obligations are met. The pace of educational change seems to increase constantly and our staff, led by Lynda Bowyer work extremely hard in order to give our children the highest quality of teaching based in a supportive and encouraging environment.

It's important that as parents, you feel welcome. A good relationship between school and home helps to build a child's confidence and assists their development in school. The Governors are always keen to seek the views of parents, so please come and chat to us when you see us at school, or at any school function. With the ongoing work on our school website we will be sharing more information with you, including a detailed overview of the Governing Body's committees. In addition, you will have the opportunity to meet governors at the Parents' Evenings.

We feel extremely privileged to be part of the life of our successful and vibrant school and to help maintain high standards for all our children.



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## Getting Ofsted Ready

and robust school development plan and we are actively working to this.

We are developing Governor section of the website making it easier for parents to find and locate information. In this area of the website we will upload our newsletters, surveys and results and other governor information.

You will see a summary of the

Governor's action plan from last year, how we did and what we are setting out to do this year. The discipline of preparing and working to a development plan is only in its second year, so producing public copies is a big step for the Governing Body, but one we consider important in developing a more visible Governance structure at our school.

## Parent View

*Your child's school*

On the front page our website you will see a link to Parent View. Parent View allows parents and carers to give their views about their child's school at any time of the year.

It features 12 questions that cover a range of issues important to parents, such as how well the school deals with bullying, the quality of teaching, whether the level of homework given is appropriate and a final question of whether or not a parent would recommend the school.

Once a small number of surveys are completed, the results for the school are visible in Parent View although individual responses are not.

Ofsted analyses the responses given by parents on a monthly basis. Many parents that are happy with their child's school use Parent View to share their satisfaction or to show their support for the school.

Importantly, where large numbers of survey results are critical of a school, inspectors will look at the information alongside other data, such as examination results, attendance records and complaint levels, to make a decision about whether or when to inspect the school.

The survey is not designed to receive complaints about schools.

If you are a parent or carer you simply need your email address and a password to register on the Parent View website at: <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Once your login has been activated it only takes a few minutes to rate your child's school against the 12 questions.

Whilst we understand parents and carers are extremely busy, please take the time to visit the Parentview site and complete the very short survey as it adds value to the children's education and helps the school deliver the right education for their future development.

## KINGS CLIFFE ENDOWED SCHOOL GOVERNORS



Sarah Dresner  
(Chair / Co-opted Parent Governor)



Katy Evans  
(Vice-Chair / Parent Governor)



Lynda Bowyer  
(headteacher)



Stephen White  
(Resources Committee / Co-opted Governor for Appraisal)



Hannah Sibson  
(Standards & Curriculum / Staff Governor)



Mandy Jones  
(Co-opted Staff Governor for Inclusion)



Pierre Tanner  
(LA Governor / Website Coordinator)



Bill Field  
(Parent Governor / Standards & Curriculum Committee)



Gina Scotney  
(Early Years & Extended Schools / Foundation Governor)



Brenda Wright  
(Standards & Curriculum / Foundation Governor)



Martin Fern  
(Associate Member / Resources Committee and Transition Project Manager)