

### The role of the governing body

- First and foremost to help raise standards of achievement.
- Be accountable for the performance of the school through monitoring and re-view.
- Help shape the vision of the school and thus the schools future direction.
- Make decisions about the school's budget and staffing requirements.
- Ensure the school provides for all pupils, including those with additional needs.
- Decides how the school can encourage pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

***As the title suggests, Governors govern rather than manage. They are there to give direction and focus by performing a vital strategic role.***

#### **All governors:**

- Have the best interest of the school at heart—pupils first and foremost , but also staff, parents and the local community.
- Attend full Governing Body meetings at least once a term
- Sit on at least one further committee—most of the key work of the Governing Body takes place in these committees.
- Read reports and background papers prior to meetings
- Attend training sessions to improve understanding of the school and education
- Carry out monitoring as required e.g. class visits and health and safety inspections
- Plan strategically to continually improve the school for the benefit of all , making best use of all information available about school performance.

### Your governing body

This leaflet hopefully gives you an insight into the way your school Governing Body operates. The members of the Governing Body come from all areas of the school, including teachers, support staff, parents, members of the local community and those appointed by the Local Authority. The current Governors are listed below. The clerk to the Governors attends meetings and ensures that minutes, records and papers of the Governing Body are properly recorded and maintained.

You can keep up to date with the work of the Governing Body through the school website. Please visit:

[www.blackford.co.uk](http://www.blackford.co.uk)

#### Your current governors

Mrs Dorothea Mackay (Chair)  
Mr Peter McGaw (Vice Chair)  
Mr David Coulthard  
Mr John Wharton  
Rev Jan Van Den Berg  
Mrs Joy Budden  
Ms Emma Douglas  
Mrs Alison Darling  
Mrs Linda Smith  
Miss Melanie Cruickshank  
Mrs Pam Jones (Clerk)



*The Little School with a Big Heart*

## School Governing Body information

Summer term  
2017

The aim of this leaflet is to provide an insight into the recent work and role of the school's Governing Body

### **Full Governing Body**

The full governing body meets twice each term. Meetings cover general school business with reports from the Head teacher on relevant matters and summaries of each of the committee's work during that term. Specific matters requiring all Governors' approval are also discussed.

Recent work has involved:

- Revision of the school's vision, ethos and values in conjunction with staff and consultation with parents;
- A review of strategic development issues linked very closely to school improvement and self-evaluation;
- A focus on the school's Self Evaluation Form and discussing further areas of focus for the School Improvement Plan;
- The re-constitution of the Governing Body following statutory changes introduced by the Government. This is designed to make the Governing Body more flexible in terms of its membership so as to ensure a wide range of skills and experiences.

### **Curriculum and Standards Committee**

The curriculum committee is responsible for monitoring and challenging the standards of education and progress of all children in school through monitoring of trends in results and achievement in all year groups. This involves interrogating the data to ensure that the school focuses on key areas. This committee is very much focused on School Improvement and helps to shape the schools' priorities alongside the Headteacher.

Once a term, pupil progress is considered and referenced to the school improvement priorities and the schools' own performance and data. Recent meetings have included: interrogation of the government's RAISE Online data which summarises the school's assessment data and compares it against other similar schools and national data; the use and impact of Pupil Premium and School Sports Premium funding; review of the computing policy.

### **Finance and Staffing Committee**

This committee's remit is to deal with all matters relating to the financing and staffing of the school as the two areas go closely together. Regular agenda items for meetings include:

- The review of actual against budget figures and monitoring the financial performance of the school against national statistics.

- Staffing matters are discussed and during the autumn term there is a review of the impact of ongoing appraisals of staff.

Last year, the school policy of appraisals was also updated in line with government guidance.

Members of the committee also undertake the Headteacher's appraisal and performance review.

Each year, May sees approval of the school budget for the following financial year.

### **Safeguarding Committee**

This committee's primary responsibility is for safeguarding all pupils and staff and also to deal with issues involving the school buildings and environment and health and safety across the school.

Much of the committee's work last year was concerned with the expansion of the school, and ensuring that the works progressed smoothly and with least impact on the working life of the school.

Other recent work includes review of the child protection policy, the health and safety policy and the annual safeguarding audit.

The committee reviews the Safeguarding action plan at each meeting.