

The Governors' Role

On behalf of the Governors, thank you for your interest in our website

But who are the Governors, and what do we do? The following paragraphs give a broad description of the Governors' duties and how we carry them out.

Under the Education Acts, the Governing Body has legal responsibility for the conduct of the School with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement. It is the Governing Body acting as a whole, rather than individual Governors, which carries this responsibility and has the powers which go with it. Notwithstanding the importance of the role, school governors serve in a voluntary capacity.

Our job is not to manage the School on a day to day basis, which of course is carried out by the professional team ably led by our Headteacher Rebecca Winn. The Governors' role is to give strategic direction by having a vision for the School, understanding its strengths and weaknesses, identifying targets and priorities, and monitoring progress towards achieving those aims. This entails the dual approach of supporting the Headteacher and her team, offering constructive advice and other help where needed, but also challenging, asking questions and offering constructive criticism where appropriate. The Governing Body is also responsible for ensuring that the School documents and implements formal policies covering a wide range of subjects.

The Governors believe that schools have a unique ability to be a focal point in their local community and should be run in the interests of that community. We want that to be true of Colgate Primary School, and are always open to the views of parents and others as to how the School's value to the local community may be enhanced.

In practice, we go about our task in a number of ways:

- The full Governing Body meets towards the end of each school term, at which it receives the Headteacher's termly report.
- Some of the Governing Body's work is delegated to the Resources, Curriculum & Standards Committee, which also meets once in each school term.
- Individual Governors are assigned particular responsibilities, including assignment to pupil year groups, in the course of which they make regular visits into school to monitor progress and report back to the Governing Body.
- Governors also attend school assemblies from time to time, as well as school productions, sports days and other events.
- In order to maintain good communications, Governors hold meetings with the teaching staff each term and with parents/carers annually.
- Governors need to have a good understanding of their duties and to keep up to date with the inevitable changes in the educational system, and a wide range of training opportunities are available to help them in this.

The Governors are always pleased to meet parents at school events, and in particular would be delighted to discuss the governor role with any parent considering volunteering as a parent governor.

Marcus Summersfield

Chair of Governors