

Chair Of Governors Annual Report 2023-2024

This year can be summarised as one of change. In October 2023 the UK was devastated by torrential rain and for the first time in 23 years water poured down the hill and through our school. This destroyed flooring, furniture and resources; pupils were sent home for safety and schooling was suspended. Governors lent a hand and helped staff with the clean up and at Gill Donaldson's suggestion formed the Flood Committee to assist the Headteacher in thinking strategically about preventative measures to deal with the problem. At the time of writing Class 4 has been re-equipped and will be ready for the new school year.

Within days school life resumed (one classroom down) as did the role of Governors: meetings to discuss Teaching and Learning; Resourcing; helping in school with learning, SATS, events and school trips and visiting lessons and teachers to discuss the curriculum. This year, sadly, we lost our Parent Governor Philip Curzon and our Foundation Governor Gill Ambrose, both of whom had stood firm during the COVID years. We have gained Joe Brough and hope to benefit hugely from his financial and managerial experience. The school and Governors also continue to belong to the Gell Cluster of Schools – benefitting hugely from Governor training and for pupils: a school collaborative arts projects (this year it was Gaudi), Science investigation events; sports provision and the Family Support Worker. All of this paves the way for pupils to make a smooth transition at the end of year 6.

As Governors, we were saddened by the news that Liz Foster, our Headteacher of 14 years, was moving on to pastures new. The relationship between Headteacher and Governors is a close one. Personally I have had the pleasure of meeting with Liz on a monthly basis for the last two years. I have learnt a lot and been impressed by her warmth, kindness and compassion – an ethos which permeates down through the school and impacts all of us within it. We wish her well.

Myself, Gill Donaldson, Helen Wallace and Peter Binks worked with the Diocese, The Local Authority and HR to recruit and appoint a

new Headteacher. Whilst this was an enjoyable experience it took up many hours of our time. The interviews took place over two days and were pretty gruelling for Governors and candidates alike. We had a strong field of applicants and are fortunate to have appointed Ian Wilson whom we very much look forward to working with in the future.

Alison Whittaker