

GOVERNOR UPDATE

ISSUE NO 1 | SPRING TERM 2023

HOBLETTS MANOR JUNIOR
SCHOOL



GOVERNING BOARD

Get to know us a little better. Who are we? Why are we here? What do we do?

UPDATES

A brief overview from our recent meetings and current areas of focus

WHAT'S NEXT

A chance for us to give you a view of our plan for 2023 and where we need your support

THE GOVERNING BOARD

Hello and welcome to the first edition of our new '**Governor Update**'. 2023 - a new calendar year and new opportunities and challenges to face! This edition will largely be introductory, to give you a better feel for who we are and what we do. So, let's begin!

The Governors at Hobletts Manor Junior School are here to represent Parents, Carers, Staff and various groups within the community. We work closely with the school to provide both support and challenge, including ensuring it meets its statutory obligations. This covers three main areas:

1. **Strategic:** Involving setting policies, planning and managing change.
2. **Monitoring and accountability:** Ensuring the school meets educational and financial targets and has plans in place to meet performance objectives.
3. **Supporting:** Supporting the school by celebrating and praising achievement, but also act as a critical friend, seeking improvement and asking questions where appropriate.

GOVERNORS

Name	Roles & Responsibilities	Brief Intro
Rajinder Rall	Co-Chair of Governors Co-opted Governor	I have been a parent governor for 6 years. I became a parent governor as was keen to understand and support the school and its pupils to grow. I have brought parent views and feedback into the governing board.
Daniel Taylor	Co-Chair of Governors; Parent Governor; Sports Premium Link	I became a governor in 2022, as I wanted to help support the school where one of my children still attends. I am new to governing but hopefully I bring other skills and experiences which will add value to the team. I have certainly learnt a lot from everyone.
Kelly Curtis	Vice Chair of Governors; Parent Governor; Safeguarding, including H&S and GDPR	Joined the Governing Board as a parent governor in Feb 2020 and have covered various roles whilst on the board including SEND, Health & Safety, GDPR, Safeguarding and Vice Chair.
Alison Rapson	Co-opted Governor Inclusion, inc. SEND, Pupil Premium and Children Looked After (CLA)	Currently on leave.
Lee Allwork	Staff Governor	I have been part of the Hobletts team for nearly 8 years. During this time, I have worked as a Midday supervisor, special educational 1-2-1 and teaching assistant gaining lots of experience with a range of children and their needs. I feel these skills will lend themselves well to support my role as staff governor.
Helena Marks-Dwyer	Co-opted Governor Health & Safety, Wellbeing and SEND (Acting)	I have a long-standing connection with Hobletts, having attended myself as have my children and three of my grandchildren. I was previously a governor for the infant school and later for a special school in Hertfordshire. I have spent many years as a member of the management committee for DESC (Dacorum Education Support Centre), worked in the field of SEND and continue to do so on a part time basis. I am passionate about education and delighted to be involved again with Hobletts Manor.
Elizabeth Polson	Co-opted Governor Curriculum, Pupil Premium	I am new to the world of being a governor and I am very excited to be taking that step with such a wonderful school! I have been a secondary school teacher for nearly 20 years, and I am currently one of the Assistant Principal's at The Adeyfield Academy. As somebody who lives and works locally, I am passionate about supporting Hobletts in any way I can.
Sally Short	Headteacher	I am very proud to be the Headteacher of Hobletts Manor Junior School and member of a very special team. I am passionate about my role and committed to working with others to enable all children who attend Hobletts to be the very best that they can be.
Kelly Smith	School Business Manager	My background is in commercial property finance & management. I entered the education sector, after having two children, to balance with family commitments. I have worked at Hobletts since April 2019. I also support the Infants School in a similar capacity. I play competitive netball and act as Deputy Chair of Governors for a school in Hitchin and love to walk my Cocker Spaniel Monty!

WHAT WE DO

The full Governing Board meet on a regular basis, usually a minimum of once a term. In between these meetings, Governors also undertake a closer look at a particular aspect of the school's work, linked to their Strategic Role. Governors aim to visit the school once a term during the day, linked to their area of responsibility and at events such as Family Consultation Evenings. We also represent the school at a variety of functions and meetings.

Once a year Governors hold a 'Strategy Day' with all governors spending a whole day on site focusing on various aspects of the school. Along with this Governors regularly attend formal training organised by Herts. Governance to ensure we can fulfil our duties effectively.

We also review our own performance as a Governing Board to assess our skills and identify where we need to develop. The Governing group have a broad range of skills and experience. Allocated roles (called link roles) enable us to support and challenge school performance in a given area and strengthen and deepen our understanding of the impact of the school's work, its strengths and next steps.

"In its simplest form the Governors are here to help the school achieve its vision ...

TO INSPIRE PROUD, CONFIDENT, LIFELONG LEARNERS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS FOR ALL"

- Daniel Taylor – Co-Chair



LAST GOVERNORS BOARD MEETING AND PLANNING FOR 2023

In December we had a really productive meeting to close the year, taking the opportunity to reflect on 2022 and start plan for 2023. With new Governors joining it also seemed a good point to pause and reflect how the board works, our skills, training requirements and what we would like to do more of. As an action from this we have completed a skills audit and we're also looking at ways to be more visible to Parents and Carers – the first one being this Update! For 2023, meetings have been formalised and placed in the diary. Governors are currently liaising with school staff to agree timings for Spring Link Role school visits to deep dive into our areas of focus.

2022 saw significant change across the Governing Board with several new Governors joining whilst we also said goodbye to others. The Board has grown in size overall but we still have a number of vacancies to fill in our Parent Governor and Co-opted Governor positions. Recruitment on these voluntary positions is underway and if this is something you maybe interested in then please contact us via the school office.

Finance is also a critical area, particularly at a time where costs are increasing. Every pound needs to be spent wisely; best value principles at the heart of our decision making. Some great investments were made in 2022, including renovation of the bathroom facilities. In 2023, we have a separate Budget sub-committee working with the School Business Manager to understand the current plan as we continue to invest in Infrastructure.

I hope you find the update useful, and the Board and I look forward to speaking with you more in 2023!

Daniel Taylor