

The Willows Primary School Governing Body

The governing body is accountable to the Department for Education for the strategic leadership of the school. It is responsible for both the conduct of the school and for the promotion of high standards. It carries out its role by setting the vision for the school, ensuring that the school works efficiently and effectively towards achieving its vision, and that ultimately the school provides an effective and high quality education for our pupils. This is ensured by having a thorough knowledge of the school, by both supporting and constructively challenging the school, and by ensuring accountability and compliance.

The full governing body meets once per term to consider the reports of the Headteacher, the governing body's sub-committees, and its link governors. The sub-committees meet at least once per term, but may also have associated working-parties which meet separately for delegated tasks. Link governors are individual governors assigned to specific curriculum or significant focus areas and they meet their staff counterparts at least termly.

Governors carry out regular visits to the school to meet with staff and pupils, work with members of the Senior Leadership Team and to undertake activities to support their evaluation of the school's work.

The governing body has three sub-committees. They are:

- Strategy - establishes vision, aims and objectives for the school, and initiates long term planning for the benefit of current and future pupils.
- Finance and Personnel - responsible for all aspects of financial planning, pay and personnel.
- Curriculum and Standards - scrutinises results and the overall curriculum, including teaching and learning

The governing body of our school is made up of parent, staff, local authority and community governors. As this list indicates, the governors are not all education specialists; many are laypeople with careers outside of education. It follows that our governors have a variety of experiences and expertise in business, public service, higher education, education in the early years and primary phases, banking, local and central government, etc. The usual term of office is four years but many governors stand for re-election and server for more than one term.

Further details of the different types of governor are:

- **Parent Governors:** are elected by parents/guardians of registered pupils and must be parents/guardians at the time of election. Parent governors do not have to leave if their child leaves during their term of office, but they can if they wish to do so.
- **Staff Governors:** are elected by the staff employed to work at the school. Once they cease to work at the school their term of office will be terminated.
- **LA Governors:** are nominated by the Local Authority and are often political appointments. LA Governors do not have to be Borough Councillors but are sometimes members of a political party in the area and they usually live locally.
- **Community Governors:** are appointed by the governing body. They are often people who live or work locally, and perhaps previously had children attending the school. They are chosen to bring specific skills to the governor team.

A full list of governors and their areas of focus is shown below:

Name of Governor	Status	Committee Membership	Link Governor Responsibilities
Mr Darren Storey (Chairman)	Community Governor	Finance & Personnel (Chair), Strategy (Chair)	PE/Sport, Safeguarding
Mrs Nicky Edwards (Vice-Chair)	Parent Governor	Finance & Personnel, Strategy	Numeracy, Science
Mrs Sarah Thursfield	Headteacher	Curriculum & Standards, Finance & Personnel, Strategy	
Mrs Patricia Boit	Staff Governor	Curriculum & Standards, Strategy	

Mr Dean Brindley	Parent Governor	Strategy	Literacy, PH&S (Premises, Health and Safety)
Dr John Chinn	Parent Governor	Curriculum & Standards, Finance & Personnel	ICT (Information and Communications Technology)
Councillor Randolph Conteh	Local Authority Governor		
Mrs Joanne Davies	Staff Governor	Curriculum & Standards (Chair), Strategy	
Mrs Kate Manning	Staff Governor	Curriculum & Standards	SMSCD (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development)
Mr Christopher Podszus	Local Authority Governor	Finance & Personnel	SEN (Special Educational Needs)
Miss Sara Rushton	Parent Governor	Curriculum & Standards	EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)
Mrs Fiona Weston	Parent Governor	Curriculum & Standards, Finance & Personnel	Pupil Premium
Clerk to the governing body			
Governor Support Unit, Stoke-on-Trent Local Authority			

We welcome and value comments and feedback to the governing body though issues or concerns relating to the operation of the school, including teaching and learning, should be raised with the Headteacher or her staff in the first instance and follow the school complaints process. This can be found in the Policies tab in the *Parents* section of this website.

If you are interested in the work we do, would like to find out more, have any questions, or are interested in becoming a governor, please contact the clerk to the governing body at gsu@stoke.gov.uk, or by post at Governor Support Unit, Children and Young People's Services, Floor 2, Civic Centre, Glebe Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 1HH. You can also write to the Chairman of the governing body, Mr Darren Storey, via our school office.