

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the recent questionnaire many of you kindly completed for us, we as Governors would like to keep parents more informed about what we do, and also tell you more about who we are. So we will be writing a regular Governors newsletter, and it falls to me to do the first one.

Let me introduce myself. I have been a parent at Wheatcroft school for a very long time - all 3 of my sons have attended Wheatcroft, my eldest has now finished college, my middle son is in Richard Hale 6th form, and my youngest is currently still here in year 6. My eldest son has learning difficulties and I was so impressed with the ethos of the school when he was at Wheatcroft, I decided to become involved myself and have been a Governor since 2003.

As a Governor I am Chair of the School Improvement Committee (SIC), the sub committee which deals with pupil and curriculum based issues. This meets 3 times a year and reports to the Full Governing Board meetings. At a recent SIC meeting we looked at the progress made and set new targets on the School Development Plan (SDP) - this document highlights areas within school life we feel need to be improved on.. We reviewed a few school policies to ensure they are current, and examined documents such as the JARV report, an assessment of our school by our School Improvement Partner which recently showed the school is doing very well- a document to be proud of! Also discussed were the Parent and the Pupil Questionnaires, implementation of the new Curriculum and the fact the school continues to be oversubscribed when looking at Pupil admissions for the year 16/17.

My special interest as a Governor is Inclusion, which covers issues such as Special Needs, gifted and talented (G&T), vulnerable children and ethnicity. In this role I meet with the SENCOs Mrs Waller and Mrs Tuck every term to discuss SEN issues and report back to other Governors at the SIC meetings. We review the progress of children on the SEN register, any changes the teachers and TAs are implementing, and the external health professionals who come in to advise the school. We also recently discussed the methods Wheatcroft are now using to demonstrate the progress of children with SEN now that levels are no longer used. I meet with Mrs Gent and produce a report specifically on G&T to Governors once a year, as well as including her input on G&T issues in each Inclusion report. We use documents such as the parent and pupil questionnaires, and externally produced reports, to check that all children are happy and achieving.

What else do we do? Well, Governors sometimes need smaller working parties to deal with specific issues. Mr Skinner recently mentioned Academisation - I am sure you have heard lots about this topic in the news. Rest assured we as Governors have been discussing this regularly for a while, have set up a working party to focus on, regularly update and gain as much information as possible to make the best choice for the school should this become necessary. As you know, Governors come into school to help on occasions – for example I recently helped with Road Safety training and was present at curriculum update meetings, Forest school events and Christingle. Also as governors we need to do training courses,

and we all took an anti-terrorism course in compliance with Government guidelines, called Prevent (WRAP).

I hope this report has given you a flavour of what Governors do, and what my particular role is. We aim to produce a Newsletter each half term, as well as including reports of our Governors' meetings on the Wheatcroft website. We hope you as parents will find this useful. Please remember as Governors we are always approachable. We will continue to attend as many school events as possible – watch out for our ID badges with bright orange lanyard! You can't miss us!!

Angela Thornton