



Dear Parents

A very warm welcome to our new children and families. We know that you will be welcomed in to our school community and that your child/ren will be very well cared for at our school.

Petersfield School is a very caring and safe place for children to be and has dedicated staff and effective governors and as a result, the education provided for the children has greatly improved over recent years.

The Local Authority has given us a lot of support and has kept a close eye on us to make sure that we get even better. The final statement, in July, made by the Senior Advisor was that we were making 'very good progress'.

We now have an established group of staff, with more experienced leaders, and so can look forward to things getting even better, building on last year's successes.

I am very lucky to be supported by a marvellous group of people who have chosen to be governors of our school. They have very many varied skills and come with a great deal of knowledge. We are also in the fortunate position of having worked together for over a year and therefore, we are becoming better at what we do. We all take part in training to make sure that we can do the job well and can support the head teachers effectively.

Governors play a key role and our duties include:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

- We make decisions about the future and overall aims and how these will be achieved.
- We have helped to set the vision and values of the school, which are so very important and will thread through all our work. These will shortly be put on the website. A big thank you to everyone, else, who has helped.
- The ethos and essence of our school is clearly included within the vision and values and all governor meetings, school visits and other work we do support, check and challenge these cornerstones of our community. This is reflected in our minutes and reports of visits in the newsletters.
- The work we are doing in relation to Comberton Village College, the partnership with both the local schools and our local community are examples of the forward planning work we have been carrying out.
- Our main aim is to make sure that all of our children get the very best opportunities, as outlined in our vision and School Improvement Plan.

2. Holding the Headteachers to account for educational performance

- During our governor meetings we discuss reports and ask questions of the Headteachers to make sure we have all the necessary information and to make sure that the Headteachers are doing a good job. We ask for more information or reports when we feel it is necessary to check further.
- We make many visits to school so that we have first-hand knowledge of what is happening and that check that the children are safe, making good progress and enjoying their days, in school.
- We come in to school to watch assemblies, performances, sporting events and other special occasions. This helps us to see for ourselves, the whole curriculum, in action. During

our visits we speak to children, staff and parents to find out what they feel about the school.

- Safeguarding is always at the top of our list and during every visit, governors check out all safeguarding procedures. We need to know that what is written in policies is actually happening in practice.
- We make sure questionnaires are given to children and parents to find out about many different things and then use this information to make improvements.
- We attend visits from Local Authority Advisors to make sure we are getting value for money and that we are being challenged and supported.
- We are responsible for the Headteacher's performance management and we oversee the performance management of other staff.
- We provide feedback to parents in newsletters and other reports and from these you will see confirmation that we feel the children are very safe and are making good progress.
- We also ask many questions which are followed up at meetings, through discussion or at future visits.

3. Overseeing financial performance

- We have oversight of budgets, spending and forecasts.
- The Resources Committee meets, at least, four times a year to monitor the above.
- We authorise payments, check appropriate purchasing and ordering procedures are carried out.
- We ensure value for money.
- We oversee all financial procedures and visit school to ensure that these procedures are in place and are being followed.
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4. Overseeing premises management

- The Resources Committee and individual governors support the Headteachers with this and all decisions and more major items are approved by the Full Governing Body.
- We have overall responsibility for the Health and Safety of all members of the school and a named governor carries out visits and reports back.
- Policies are monitored for effectiveness.

This is just an outline of what we do. The job of being a governor is varied, requires dedication and, I hope all governors agree, is very rewarding.

We are still looking for people to join our board, so if you know of anyone in the community who may be interested, then please ask them to contact the school office.

Thank you to all parents for the support you give and for the contribution you make. A special thank you to the parents and friends on the FOPS Committee.

Thank you to our amazing staff team who are so dedicated to our school and to the children. We, as governors, have a responsibility to look after the staff's well-being and to make sure that their jobs are as stress free as possible and I am sure that you will all support us in this aim. They are our most important resource and staff can support the children, and their needs, so much more effectively when they are relaxed and happy, themselves.

Thank you to Mrs Gwynn and Mrs Penrose for their care of everyone and for their continued push towards our school becoming great, in every way.

Finally, a huge thank you to our children, who make our school so special.

Linda Meredith, Chair of Governors