Welcome to our new Governor’s newsletter. Here we hope to keep you informed on governing priorities and what is happening within our school. We aim to improve our contact with parents/carers and raise awareness of the work we do.

Introduction

Some of our parents/carers may not be aware of the role of the Governing Body and by issuing this newsletter we hope that you will have a better understanding of who we are and what we aim to achieve. The main roles of the Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure it’s funding is well spent.

We aim to promote high standards, including educational achievement, physical and emotional wellbeing. We all work to ensure every child has a positive experience at Greensted.

MEET OUR GOVERNORS

Craig O’Callaghan

Craig is our Chair of Governors. He has been working in education for the past 27 years and has operational, technological, legal and financial experience. His role involves ensuring that statutory requirements and regulations are met, that the school provides value for money in its use of resources and that our governing body business is conducted efficiently and effectively.

Steve Robson

Steve is a community governor and is responsible for Safeguarding. He has over 30 years’ experience of working within the retail trade as a company director. He has proven financial, marketing and personnel experience and an understanding in business principles. Steve is currently working as a Sports Grounds Man.

Sharon Williams

Sharon is a parent governor and is responsible for Curriculum. She passionately believes that all children deserve a good education and a right to feel happy and safe in their school environment. Sharon’s own children have attended Greensted Junior School.
Laura Curran

Laura is a parent governor and is our Chair of the Curriculum & Admissions Committee. She became a governor in November 2014 and is extremely proud of Greensted’s achievements and successes. She believes each child’s potential is limitless and each and every one of them deserves the right to a good education. Laura is a mum of two and works full time as an Area Service Manager for Muller Milk.

Julie Butterworth

Julie is our support staff governor and School Business Manager. She has worked at Greensted for 7 years, having previously worked in London for a financial institution. She became a governor in September 2014 to help create an environment where the children of Greensted are encouraged to have positive aspirations and provide the foundation for the future generations to achieve their goals.

Debbie Rowe

Mrs Rowe is a staff governor and has worked at the school since September 2009. She is fully committed to the school and at ensuring that all children at Greensted, regardless of their ability, reach their full potential, supported and nurtured in a safe, caring and positive environment.

She strongly believes that an engaging and enriching curriculum will help them succeed and to help them develop into happy and inspired members of society.

Gill Sharman

Gill started her career in financial services and then education, before working for the 5-19 Child Health Improvement Team in Essex. She is currently employed as a Health Improvement Specialist, supporting schools across Essex and based in Basildon. Gill is a community governor and a member of the finance committee and also shares some of the Safeguarding responsibilities.

Imogen Harding

Having been a volunteer for over 3 years at Greensted Infant school and part of the PTA (FOGS) I am now proud to be a parent governor at Greensted Junior School. I strive to work as part of the team to ensure that our unique children, regardless of ability, have the opportunity to be kept safe and healthy whilst enjoying an education in a positive environment in order for them to achieve their full potential. I currently work at a local primary school and am passionate about children with special needs and have training in areas related to Safeguarding, Pupil Premium to special educational needs etc.
LEE MEDLOCK

Lee is a community governor and Chair of the Finance, Personnel & Premises Committee. He became a governor in March 2015 and is a qualified accountant with experience of schools finance through his current role working within Local Government. His role as Chair of the FPP is to ensure that committee business is dealt with effectively and provide challenge/scrutiny of the school’s ongoing financial position.

Contact with Governors

Parents are welcome to approach or contact a governor directly. If you wish to write to a specific governor, this can be done by addressing your letter to them and handing it in at the school office. Any letters for the attention of the Governing Body should be addressed to the ‘Chair of Governors’ and delivered to the school office. Alternatively you can email the governors via the following email address:-

governors@greensted-jun.essex.sch.uk

Whilst governors will always welcome your letters and value your comments, all initial concerns, issues or complaints relating to the day to day running of the school, should always in the first instance be referred to your child’s class teacher. Thereafter, if any issues remain unresolved, you should contact the Head Teacher.
PREPARING FOR OFSTED

We expect a visit from Ofsted to inspect our school in the near future. Governors and staff look forward to welcoming them into our school to show the improvements we have made since their last visit in 2014.

We thought you might like to know what an Ofsted visit means…

When will they come?
One afternoon Ofsted will ring the school office and turn up the following morning. No other advance notice is given.

What will they do?
Ofsted will research our school before they come by looking at our website and all the data available to them as well as our previous Ofsted report. They will meet governors, staff, senior leaders and pupils. They will observe lessons, assemblies and break times and look at lots of documents. They will also ask parents about their views.

How have we prepared?
Staff and Governors continue to perform their roles to the best of their ability and have prepared themselves for the questions they will be asked by Inspectors and the paperwork they will need to show.

How can you help us prepare for Ofsted?
Ofsted will invite parents to give their views on the school via the 'Parent View' questionnaire on the Ofsted website. They will look at the number of entries and the responses you give to twelve multiple-choice questions. Alternatively this can be accessed via our school website at:

www.greensted-jun.essex.sch.uk.

You can submit your views now. Your contribution is tremendously important to our school.