

Mereworth Governors

The year ahead

Welcome to the start of a new academic year, and a particular welcome from Governors to new parents joining us in Reception and throughout the school, and to new members of staff. This year we are seeking to build on our 'Good' Ofsted inspection last March to take the school to 'Outstanding' in all aspects.

*"Lasting
Learning
Experiences
for Life"*

What is the role of the governing body?

The governing body acts as a 'critical friend' to the leadership team, supporting and challenging, to ensure that the school is constantly improving for pupils. The governing body is made up of volunteers – from local businesses, parents, or people with previous experience working in schools - as well as the Head Teacher and deputy Head Teacher. Governors are responsible for setting the strategic direction for the school, appointing the Head Teacher, and ensuring that finances are spent wisely. Governance is inspected by Ofsted as part of the school's inspection.



How do Mereworth Governors work?

Governors scrutinise delivery of the School Action Plan that is set at the start of each school year and identifies key priorities for improvement. At Mereworth, pairs of Governors are assigned to ask searching questions about particular aspects of the plan, such as health and safety, pupil outcomes, safeguarding or special educational needs provision. Governor pairs meet staff and pupils for their views, as well as the Head Teacher, and scrutinise school performance data and budgets. It is really important that Governors take into account the views of parents, for example we greatly value feedback from parent questionnaires. We also meet as a full committee six times a year and have some sub-committees e.g. on pay.

What Governors don't do

Governors are not responsible for the day to day running of the school – this is the job of the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership team. As such Governors should not be involved in day to day issues. It is only if these are not dealt with to your satisfaction by the class teacher and then Head Teacher, that Governors may be asked for a view – this is outlined in the Complaints Policy. We are also not 'inspecting' the school or forming judgments about how good the teaching is, but working alongside the Head Teacher to help make this very good school even better.

New Chair of Governors

One of our parent Governors, Charlotte DuBern, became Chair of the governing body in July 2017 (photo). We thanked Richard Bolsin, for chairing for 9 years and are delighted he is staying on as a Governor. Sanjay Singh, a local businessman and parent, was co-opted as a new Governor from July 2017 and we are looking for another two Governors. We have enough parents on the governing body for now but would love to hear from anyone who would like to contribute to the school's success as a co-opted Governor - perhaps a grandparent, neighbour, or colleague? Please enquire at the school office - office@mereworth.kent.sch.uk or 01622 812569 – and we can arrange an informal chat with a Governor about what's involved.

