

Want to know what the Governors do and who they are? Read on...

What is the Governing Body?

Every local authority school in the country is managed by a partnership between the governing body, the headteacher and the local education authority. The headteacher and staff run the school on a day to day basis. They implement the strategic plans and policies made by the governing body. So, the governing body is like the board of directors of a company with the headteacher as the chief executive. Governing bodies are ruled by a legal framework and they are corporately responsible for their actions.

The job of the governing body is to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational attainment. The role of a governor is to be a “critical friend” to the school which means questioning but supporting in a constructive way the aims of the school.

What do the Governors actually do?

We actively manage the school in conjunction with the headteacher, the staff and the local authority. Together, we determine the strategic direction and policies of the school and monitor standards. It’s “big picture” stuff. It includes:

- Appointing the headteacher and staff and all staffing matters
- Managing the school’s budget
- Monitoring and evaluating the curriculum and standards of attainment
- Looking after the school building
- Making school policies, plans and targets

To do this we all meet together every half term. We receive a report from the headteacher each time as well as presentations from other members of staff, we ask questions, we debate issues and we make decisions. In between the full governors’ meetings, 5 committees meet and work on the major issues of staffing, finance, premises, curriculum and whole child development. In addition to that, we set up working parties or panels from time to time to look at matters such as admissions, exclusions and communication. This is a large first school and there is always a lot of business to deal with.

To monitor school development and improvement each governor has a link responsibility for one area of it and meets regularly with the relevant member of staff to review progress.

Who can become a Governor?

Virtually anyone. Governors are not education professionals. We are volunteers and are not paid. We are ordinary people from the local community with experience in other areas of business and life. We give our skills and time to benefit the school. We undertake the training and development provided for governors. Governors are appointed, elected or co-opted under various categories determined by the instrument of government for the school. As St Peter’s is a church school, we are made up of 16 governors, 9 of whom are church governors, 3 parent governors, 3 staff governors including the headteacher (who can choose to be a governor or not) and 1 local authority governor. Governors are appointed for 4 years but can resign or be removed before that.

Who are the Governors at St Peter's?

Justine Cosson – Chair of Governors, church governor and a parent

Keith Norrington – Vice Chair of Governors, local authority governor, ex parent, Chair of Finance

Tracey O’Keeffe-Pullan – Headteacher

Lucy Colclough – Deputy Headteacher, associate governor

The Principal Officiating Minister of the Parish of Droitwich Spa - ex officio governor

Melanie Radford – church governor, parent

Jill Wheeler – church governor, Chair of SMSCD

Iain Williams – church governor, ex parent, Chair of Premises

Steve Penn - church governor, ex parent

Liz Ross – church governor

Emma Caffrey – church governor, parent

We have a vacancy for a church governor

Sarah Richards – parent governor

Simon Richards – parent governor, Chair of Staffing

Derek Griffiths - parent governor

Fiona Rouse – staff governor

Nicky Todd – staff governor

Gail Hodnett - Clerk to Governors

The governors of St Peter’s are actively involved in school life and you will see us at school functions, concerts, parents’ evenings, assemblies, helping in class and on the playground. You probably know many of us as individuals but don’t necessarily know that we are on the governing body. You can view our photographs and profiles on the school website so there is no excuse for not knowing who we are!

We can be contacted through the school office if you wish to speak to us about strategic aspects of school life. However, please remember that if you have a question about your child or about day to day issues in school then that is a matter for the teacher or the headteacher in the first instance. In addition, at St Peter’s we have a strong and active Parent Voice forum through whom you can voice your opinions or suggestions regarding general school issues such as homework, communication, sports days etc. Please ask us if there is anything else you would like help with and we will be able to point you in the right direction. We are passionate about our school and we want to share our enthusiasm!

Also, if you are:

- Interested in education and want to make a difference to children’s lives
- Tolerant and able to work with others
- Patient
- Enthusiastic
- Willing to learn and spend time getting involved in school life
- Open and democratic

consider standing as a governor at this school when a vacancy arises, or indeed at any school – apply to the local authority with your CV to become a school governor as one of our governors did; they are always keen to hear from new applicants. Everyone has different skills and a good governing body should have a mix of them. You will see that you can make a difference to children’s lives!

Justine Cosson

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