



Round Hill Governors' Newsletter No. 1

Spring term 2014

This is the first edition of the new termly Governors' Newsletter. We aim to keep you informed about the latest work of the Governing Body. Inside this edition you can find out about who the governors are and the work the school governors do...

Introduction

Welcome Message



Richard Jones
(Chair of the
Governing Body)

We aim to produce one short newsletter like this each term. We would love to have any feedback from you on the content of the newsletters, or your ideas of items you would like us to cover in the future.

We hope that the time your child spends at Round Hill will be memorable for all the right reasons and will offer them opportunities that make you wish you were back in your primary years!

We want Round Hill to be an outstanding school, not just in Ofsted terms, but also in our own terms: a great place to learn, grow, play, work and be associated with.



Adrian Nash
(Headteacher)



The National Governors' Association is the representative body for state-funded school governors in England.

What do we do?

The role of governors is often summed up in the phrase “a critical friend” to the head teacher and the school. The role of the Governing Body is to help raise the standards and performance of the School by supporting the work of the Headteacher and the Staff.

The full Governing Body meets once a term to consider a wide range of issues.

These include strategic discussions about the school development plan, policies, budgets, admissions, monitoring visits, risk management, and reports from the Headteacher - which also includes details of the latest school performance data. We also attend training courses, individually and collectively - and evaluate our effectiveness.

Full Governing Body Meetings:

Tue 28 Jan 2014 , 6.30pm

Tue 20 May 2014, 6.30pm

- Reviewing and introducing new Government-led performance related pay policy for teachers
- School expansion. The Governors have been actively involved in reviewing parent questions, offering feedback to and challenging the Local Authority on plans and reviewing the plans which were put forward. This is an ongoing priority for the Governing Body over the months ahead and we will be updating you on the expansion in more detail in the summer issue of this newsletter

How do we do it?

It is not practical for the full governing body to make decisions on every aspect of its business. There are, therefore, a number of committees which have specific areas of work delegated to them. These committees meet at intervals during the term and report back to the full governing body for ratification of their decisions. Round Hill School has a committee structure of 4 committees:

- Finance and General Purposes
- Pupils and Personnel
- Curriculum and Strategic Development
- Discipline Committee

We also carry out monitoring visits to help us appreciate and understand the workings of the school. We do not make judgements about the quality of teaching or the progress of individual children.

A little bit about the Finance and General Purposes Committee:

The main function of the Finance and General Purposes committee is to oversee the school budget, to plan with the school how money should be spent and to receive reports on the impact spending has had on learning. Another role of F&GP is to work with the school to ensure that pupils, staff and visitors are kept safe and secure on site. There is also work around keeping the building in good repair and getting good value for money on repairs and development work. We aim to support and challenge the school staff leaving the day to day running of the school in their hands and concentrating on the planning and evaluation of developments and spending.

Hilary Craik is the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes committee.

Who are we?

The Governing Body of Round Hill is made up of eighteen parents, staff, community and Local Authority appointees, who work together to support and monitor the life of school. Details of the current membership are on the school website.

Governors in the spotlight.....

I became a local authority governor for Round Hill in 2001 on the recommendation of a local county councillor, who sat on the education committee; Round Hill had a vacancy which had been allocated to the political parties.

I am a retired history teacher and ex head of department. I was also a curriculum support teacher for three years, seconded to the national Low Achieving Pupil's Project of the late 1980s which sought to raise attainment through the development of practical new courses, to run alongside the traditional curriculum.

There were two major reasons for wanting to become a governor. Firstly, I liked the role of supporting teachers in the classroom; acting as a sounding board, discussing problems and encouraging solutions seemed to be a good thing to do and fitted in with the idea that a governor should act as a "critical friend."

Secondly, being an ex-pupil of Round Hill gave me a personal attachment to the school; "from the cradle to the grave" springs to mind... but hopefully not just yet.

I am the link governor for Special Educational Needs, Child Protection and Anti-Bullying, a role which is watched over by the Pupils and Personnel Committee. I meet with Emma Pye, the school's Inclusion Leader once per term and the reports from those meetings are in the school's documentation. It is pleasing to note that pupils in this category are making good progress.



**Brian Taylor
Vice Chair
(Local Authority
Governor)**

Governors in the spotlight continued....

I was a Headteacher in Nottinghamshire and then I became a school improvement adviser followed by a new role to support leadership development as workforce development adviser.



**Hilary Craik
(Local Authority
Governor)**

I worked for the same Local Authority for 34 years and I am now really enjoying the freedom of being self-employed. I work across the East Midlands on school improvement issues, recruitment, training and leadership development. I think that staff development leads to better outcomes for children and that is my reason for working. I am a Lead Facilitator on the new NPQH with the George Spencer Academy, one of the three East Midlands providers of the National College's new Modular Curriculum for leadership.

I enjoy being creative and helping others to find ways forward through research and reflection. I still enjoy learning and have recently completed an MA level course in coaching.

I'm Joy Miller, a community governor and also a parent at Round Hill. I have been a governor for 18 months and really appreciate the opportunity to support staff and the life of the school.

I became a governor because I enjoy helping the process of improvement by reflecting on how things are now and helping people dream about how things could be. I am link governor for Pupil Premium, I'm motivated by seeing individuals free to be all they were made to be. Being Pupil Premium link governor often means I get to see how school is supporting, coaching and inspiring those pupils who might otherwise miss out.

Being a governor allows me to see, amidst the drive for improvement, that we have a great school with dedicated, excellent staff doing a great job. I'm in the playground most days if you ever have any questions or comments for the governing body.



**Joy Miller
(Community
Governor)**

Future newsletters

In future newsletters we'll run a 'spotlight' on each of us in turn. We'll provide information about our school and look at long-term plans. We will also update you on the School expansion plans.

However, what would you like to see in the next Edition? Please contact the office and let us know!

Contact us

Further information about the governors and minutes of all our meetings are available on the school website at :

www.roundhill.notts.sch.uk

It is our aim to improve the communication and relationship between governors, parents, staff and the children. We are a friendly bunch so do feel free to stop us at any time with a question you might have about the school. We are here to help!

If you have any specific questions or would like more information about the governing body and its role please contact us on.

Tel - 0115 917 9262

Email - office@roundhill.notts.sch.uk

