

The Role of the Parent Governor

This is a role that is sometimes misunderstood, not so much by parent governors themselves but by the parents that elect them. Parent governors are representative parents rather than representatives of parents. As such they should be elected on their skills and knowledge that the Governing Body are looking to reinforce. It is essential that the Governing Body is a well rounded team who can work together to move the school forward.

Clearly the role of the parent governor is an important one and therefore it is essential that parent governors play a full part in the work of the governing body as they are the link with the key stakeholders in the school community.

Governing Bodies do:

- Set the overall budget for the school
- Decide on the number of teaching staff
- Decide on the level of pay for its school's teachers
- Help to decide the priorities for improving the school when the school improvement plan is being drawn up
- Ensure the National Curriculum is taught to all pupils
- Set targets for pupil achievement
- Publish national test and examination results
- Compare the performance of their school to similar schools
- Receive information about the quality of teaching in the school
- Have a published strategy for dealing with parental complaints and concerns
- Ensure the balanced treatment of political issues
- Ensure health and safety issues are addressed
- Set the times of school sessions
- Need to consult the headteacher when making decisions

Governing Bodies do not:

- Inspect the school
- After visiting the school, report back on the quality of teaching
- Authorise all expenditure
- Share concerns about staff capability
- Decide on how pupils are taught different subjects
- Have the right to exclude a pupil
- Write the school's policies on their own
- "Rubber stamp" recommendations from the headteacher
- Automatically approve all apologies sent by governors
- Need to be aware of the performance objectives which have been set for individual teachers

We hope you've found this brief introduction to the governing body helpful. Please feel free to contact the school, or speak to a governor, if you'd like further information about any aspect of the work we do.

Dear Amotherby Parents

Welcome to this, the third Governors Newsletter. Our intention in publishing this newsletter is to give you information about what your Governors do to support the work of the teaching staff and senior leadership team at the school, how the governing body is made up, who we are, what you can expect from us, and how we manage the strategic development of the school.

Just like the Head Teacher and her team, our primary goal was to bring the school back to 'Good' following the 2013 OFSTED inspection and report. We have now achieved this and believe that Amotherby School is not only 'Good' but has the capacity to be an 'Outstanding' school.

We have recently reconstituted the Governing Body and we are now made up of 3 Parent Governors, 4 Co-Opted Governors, 1 Local Authority, 1 Staff Governor and the Head Teacher. We currently have a vacancy for a Co-Opted Governor who has a specialism in finance. All of the Governors take additional responsibilities, based on their particular skills and interests, by sitting on one of our Governors Committees and some taking specific responsibility for an area of the school's work, e.g. Inclusion, Health & Safety, etc..

There are four different kinds of Governor at Amotherby School. We have Parent Governors, elected by all the parents, and representative of the parent body; Local Authority Governors, appointed by elected representatives at NYCC; Co-Opted Governors, appointed by the governing body itself on a skills basis and representing the local community; and a Staff Governor. Additionally the Head Teacher is also a Governor. Each Governor has equal voting rights and decisions are made democratically, with the Chair having a casting vote. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you can find out in more detail the responsibilities of Parent Governors, and how they are representative of the parent body.

In addition to producing this Newsletter your Governors have made the decision, in the interest of transparency and openness, to publish details of decisions they make. These will be printed and sent home to parents/carers via the children and will be available to view on the School notice board by the main entrance.

Anyone interested in becoming a Parent Governor has regular opportunities to stand for election. Parent Governors are elected for a maximum term of four years, and can remain on the governing body for up to a year after their child has left the school. New skills are always welcomed, and there is always plenty of work to do. Being a Governor is recognised as public service, and this brings with it both opportunities and responsibilities. All new Governors are offered training and mentoring to provide them with the understanding and skills they need to undertake the role effectively, and further training is encouraged. Governors also sign up to a Code of Conduct, which supports the effectiveness of the whole governing body.

Please feel free to approach any of the Governors at any time. We are all happy to talk about the activities we undertake, and if you have any queries or worries about any aspect of the school we can point you in the right direction to find the answers you need

On behalf of all the Governors, I wish you and your children well for their time at Amotherby School.

Yours sincerely

Ann Hall
Chair of Governors

Amotherby CP School Governing Body



Linda Clarke

Linda was appointed Local Authority governor over 28 years ago. She has been chair and at different times on all of the Committees. Her adult children, both boys, went to Amotherby followed by Malton School, where Linda was also a governor including being chair. She is a retired social worker.



Paul Simpson

Paul lives in Swinton and has been a Parent Governor for 2 years. He sits on the Standards & Performance Committee and enjoys the challenge this brings. Paul works for a local housing association as part of the electrical management team and is a single parent with a daughter in Year 2.



Cathy Stephenson

Cathy has been teaching for 9 years. She has been year 6 class teacher here at Amotherby for 5 years now. She lives in Thirsk and enjoys spotting wildlife on the commute to work! Cathy loves teaching art and particularly enjoys running art club each year.



Chris Davis

Chris has been a parent governor for the last 4 years but is now a co-opted governor and has chaired sub-committees and is the current Vice Chair. He has a son who is in Year 3 and a son who was previously at Amotherby. Chris is the under 12's manager and Chairman at Brooklyn JFC. He is a self employed First Aid Trainer /Health & Safety Trainer.



Sally Raines

Sally became a Parent Governor in 2014 and lives in Amotherby. She has 2 sons at the school and her daughter will start in 2016. Sally is a full time Mum and runs the ASV fundraising group for the School. Sally enjoys being part of the School community and seeing the School develop.



Mrs S Knowles

Headteacher

Chair: Ann Hall Vice Chair: Chris Davis



Ann Hall

Ann is a Co-Opted Governor, appointed in 2013, who had previously served as a Parent Governor and is Chair of Governors. Her background is accountancy with a specialism in Employment Law. She has lived in Amotherby for 16 years and both her children have attended the school



Janet Thorpe

Janet, the school's caretaker, has served on the Governing Body for three years. She has been a midday supervisor, crossing patrol assistant, and assistant cook. She works on a day to day basis with all the children. She has been Inclusion Governor and is currently Health and Safety Governor.



Beckie Bennett

Beckie has been a Parent Governor since December 2013 and sits on the Finance, Premises & Personnel Committee. Beckie lives in Swinton and has three sons – Charlie is in Year 6 and George & Harry are now at Ryedale School. Beckie, who is a qualified Accountant, works for Ryedale District Council.