


# Fairlands Primary School and Nursery Governors' Newsletter

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<p><b>Governors Resources Committee</b></p>		
<p>The members of this committee are:</p> <p>Keith Smith (Chair), David Gray, Robert Staples, Emma Verlander, Kerry Ellis, Ailsa Forsyth, Rosemary Biggs, Julie Dunthorne (Clerk)</p> <p>Current items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governors were given an update of all the maintenance programmes that have taken place over the summer holidays, planned building work in the Autumn term and the expansion of the school to 3 form entry.</li> <li>• It is the Governor recommendation that any repairs or replacements are made using the most environmentally friendly materials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our thanks go out to our Premises Manager Alan Horner, for his on-going supervision of all the maintenance and repair work.</li> <li>• Governors review the finances, checking what has been spent against what was budgeted. We are happy to again report that all is running in line with expectations.</li> <li>• Governors are also updated on all the staffing arrangements at school and new intakes of pupils that may have a bearing on this.</li> <li>• Governors have also set up a series of visits to the school looking at items on the Every Child Matters agenda. We will report back on our visits in future newsletters.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Governors Teaching &amp; Learning Committee</b></p>		
<p>The members of the committee are:</p> <p>Julie Jeffries (Chair), David Gray, Robert Staples, Michelle Bridge, Partha Kundu, Hayley Yendell, Karen Oakley, Dave Morris, Nica de Koenigswarter, Julie Dunthorne (Clerk)</p> <p>Current items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing the School Single Plan. The plan highlights activities and actions that need to be mitigated to ensure the school meets its self evaluation.</li> <li>• We received a briefing on Literacy from Miss Emma Verlander. It was explained the methodology used to update the schools handwriting policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was explained that, adopting the new handwriting policy for all year groups within the school will ensure that there is continuity and consistency in the teaching of handwriting, and help support every child in the correct forming and joining up of letters</li> <li>• We also received a briefing on the new Calculations Policy by Miss Michelle Bridge. It was explained that, in the new policy, each year group would have pre-defined methods of teaching the basic algorithms in adding, subtracting, multiplication and division with the methods getting harder as the year groups increase. An example of each year group's methods of calculation can be seen in the new Calculation Policy located on the Fairlands Web-site</li> <li>• Recently the committee reviewed the Homework Policy. The policy states the amount of homework that is required to support the teaching programmes and the duration of it.</li> </ul>	

## Governor Visits

Through our programme of individual governor visits we aim to:-

- Improve governor knowledge of the ethos of the school and awareness of the work on the curriculum.
- Assist the governing body to fulfil its statutory role.
- Improve governor understanding of the needs of the school and the priorities for the future school development plan.
- Monitor and evaluate the current school development plan, especially in relation to curricular issues
- Improve governor links with staff, pupils and parents.
- Help governors to be better able to support the school community.
- To highlight the needs for particular resources.

This term, Governors have attended the year groups 'WOW' days; these included Year 5&6's H2O, Year 4's Mad Scientist, Year 3's Superhero, Year 2's Traditional Tales and Year 1's Space Voyage.

The visits enable the Governors to understand how the teachers and children interact all the curriculum subjects into a day full of excitement and enjoyment for all the children.

As well as acting as a year group Governor, Governors attend termly visits to the school's Curriculum Leaders. These visits enable the Governors to identify an aspect of the school's work to focus their visit upon. The visit will enable the governors to deepen their understanding and knowledge. In turn, this helps to maximise the effectiveness of the governing body team and enrich discussions about the school's performance.

## Governor Profile

Each Newsletter we will profile a Governor. This newsletter we asked the newest member of the Governing body, Nica De Koenigswarter (LEA Governor) why she decided to be a school governor.

Nica said, 'I decided to be a governor primarily because I LOVE education. I was a member of the University of Hertfordshire's Board of Governors last year and loved every minute of it. Having left University I now work at Hertfordshire County Council as a Graduate Management Trainee. I am passionate about young people and education and, whilst I enjoy work, I felt like I was missing being in and having an impact on the education and young people'.

## Other Governor Activities

Governors responsibilities to support the function and running of the school are not limited to the visiting highlighted above. Additional responsibilities undertaken by the Governing Body include:

- Setting the school's budget each academic year.
- Ensuring the children learn in a safe environment.

- Help monitor and review the performance of the school.
- Makes sure the school provides for all its pupils, including those with special needs.
- It helps the school decide and encourage pupils spiritual, moral and cultural development.
- Take part, if necessary, in staff appointment panels and pupil admission and exclusion panels.

## Future Governor Activities

### Governor Training

Throughout the year, governors not only attend meetings, but also relevant training courses and sessions – of which there are many! Some sessions are in-house and others are at locations elsewhere in the county. Training courses cover a wide variety of topics ranging from child protection and maintaining school buildings, to developments in the National Curriculum and health and safety issues.

### Parent Governor Vacancy

**We currently have a parent vacancy on the Governing Body.**

We need someone who will -

- Attend Governors meetings and not be afraid to ask questions or make suggestions.
- Work in partnership with the Head Teacher to help raise standards.
- Get to know the strengths and weaknesses of the school.
- Influence the school's future If you think you have what it takes.

Please feel free to contact me or the Head teacher via the school office if you are interested.

## Parents' Questionnaire (attached)

Each Newsletter, the Governing body will carry out a parents' questionnaire. The questionnaire for this newsletter will be on Anti-Bullying. The purpose of this questionnaire is:-

'The school has a responsibility to ensure that all children are safe and that they are protected from bullying. The Governors have a specific responsibility to ensure that the school has an anti-bullying policy and, as such, a further responsibility to check regularly that the policy and ensuing practice is effective. This should involve regularly collecting information from the whole school community including the Governors themselves'.

Your response to this short questionnaire will help us do this. We look forward to hearing your views.

**Please either complete and return the attached questionnaire to school OR complete an electronic version, which can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MGG2KQ2>**

**Fairlands Primary School and Nursery**  
**Governors Questionnaire - March 2012**

**ANTI-BULLYING**

**Purpose**

The school has a responsibility to ensure that all children are safe, and that they are protected from bullying. The Governors have a specific responsibility to ensure that the school has an anti-bullying policy and, as such, a further responsibility to check regularly that the policy and ensuing practice is effective. This should involve regularly collecting information from the whole school community including the Governors themselves

**What is bullying**

**Definition of Bullying:**

In completing this questionnaire, we need to ensure the same definition of bullying is used by all individuals responding.

For this questionnaire, bullying means; **'a person, or group of people doing nasty or unkind things to someone on purpose, more than just once, and which the victim finds it is difficult to stop'**.

Being bullied can take many forms, but some main types are:-

**Physical** - punched, pushed or hurt; made to give up money or belongings; taking belongings; damage to property, clothes or belongings; forced to do something they didn't want to do.

**Verbal** - teased in a nasty way; called gay (whether or not it's true); insulted about their race; called names in other ways.

**Indirect** - nasty stories told about them; left out or excluded by other children.

**Cyberbullying** - by means of electronic devices such as mobile phones (text messages, calls) and computers (emails, website, chatroom).

Your answers will be confidential - only put your name on the questionnaire if you wish to give us more detail about a specific incident or concern.

David Gray  
Chair of Governors

## Governors Questionnaire - March 2012

### ANTI-BULLYING

1. Have you read our school's anti-bullying policy recently?

Yes		No	
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2. Do you think that bullying is taken seriously in our school?

Yes		No		Don't know	
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3. Are you confident that the school has processes and procedures in place that encourage both parents and youngsters to report bullying?

Yes		No		Don't know	
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4. Are you confident that concerns of parents and youngsters are taken seriously?

Yes		No		Don't know	
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5. Are you confident that when concerns are expressed by parents or youngsters, this results in appropriate actions being taken by staff?

Yes		No		Don't know	
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6. Are you aware of issues or concerns about bullying that have been raised in the school community in the last twelve months?

Yes		No	
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Do you have any comments?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire