



Governors' Winter Newsletter

As the end of the first term of this academic year approaches, we would like to congratulate our new children and staff for settling so quickly into our school community.

As Governors, we are here to support the school and work as a 'critical friend' to the Leadership Team. Our job is to work as a democratic team, helping the Headteacher to make decisions about the strategic development of The Gattons. We are all very proud to be able to be a part of such a wonderful school.

Who are the Governors?

The Governing Board is made up of 12 governors including the Headteacher, one Staff governor, two Parent Governors and seven Co-opted Governors (typically members of the local community). We also appoint Associate Members to support the board and currently have two working with us. We welcome a new staff governor this year. Leila Grass teaches in year two and is music lead and was previously an Associate Member. We are also in the process of filling the vacancies and will hopefully be able to welcome two new governors very soon. Our governors come from a wide range of backgrounds, and all bring different experiences and skills to the Governing Board.



Lucas Cook
Chair of Governors



David Daly
Vice-Chair of Governors



Sarah Gospel
Headteacher



Emma Sainsbury
Co-opted Governor



Alison Palmer
Co-opted Governor



Leila Grass
Staff Governor



Paula Crane
Parent Governor



Rosie Brickell
Co-opted Governor



Derek Hayes
Co-opted Governor



Anthony Vander Willigen
Co-opted Governor



2 x Vacancy
Co-opted Governor



Ellie Bennett
Associate Member



Rev. Jules Middleton
Associate Member

You can find out more about us via the Governor profiles available in the [About the Governors](#) section of the website. Amongst the Governors we have a guitar teacher, a former Gattons pupil and a STEM ambassador. Two Governors currently have a child at the school and five have older children who used to attend The Gattons. Amongst our hobbies, Governors enjoy reading, swimming, sewing, yoga and tennis.

What is the role of a Governor?

Governors are like a Board of Directors and they make strategic decisions about how the school is run. The 3 main roles of school governors are:

- setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The Governing Board is not responsible for the day-to-day running of the school; this is the responsibility of the Headteacher.

What have we been doing this term?

- Full Governing Board meetings are held four times per year, with two in the Autumn term. In September, we agreed our roles for the year. At our November meeting, we focused on the School Improvement Plan and how we can support the school in implementing it.
- Committee meetings are held once per term. We have three committees: Staffing and Pupils, Resources, and Community Links. [Find out more about what each committee does.](#)
- Governors have been in contact with the subject leaders to find out more about the plans for each subject this year. This often involves Governor visits to the school so the children may see Governors in class.
- Our Chair, Lucas, meets with Sarah our Headteacher on a regular basis, as well as teaching ukulele in Year 2. Our Headteacher Performance Review Panel have met with Sarah to set objectives for the year.
- We will be reviewing our skills and experience as part of our annual skills audit and identifying suitable training for us to attend to develop our skills.
- You may have met some of us at the Christmas Fayre - we were the friendly faces on the refreshments! When we are in school you can recognise us by our orange Governor lanyards.

All that remains is for us to wish you a very Merry Christmas. Enjoy your holidays and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year.

