

KINGSWOOD EARLY YEARS CENTRE
GOVERNOR ACTIVITY
2015 - 2016

At Kingswood, our Constitution states that the Governing Board is made up of the Head-teacher, one staff governor, one parent Governor, one LEA Governor and five co-opted governors; making a total of nine. Governors names, together with their category and the area they monitor are listed below:-

Names	Category	Areas to Monitor
Petra Charles	Co-opted	
Melanie Harvey (Chair)	LEA	Progress and Attainment, Staff Appraisal
Mrs Jackson	Headteacher	
Mick Martindale	Co-opted	Health & Safety, Premises
Chris Munro (Vice Chair)	Co-opted	Inclusion, Equalities, Special Needs, Safeguarding, Staff Appraisal
Carole Racher	Co-opted	Teaching and Learning, Finance
Keith Rogers – Resigned 5.5.16	Parent Governor	Policies, British Values and Prevent Duties
Clare Runza – Resigned 8.6.16	Staff Governor	
Natasha Thomsit	Co-opted	Finance

As you can see, Clare Runza and Keith Rogers resigned during the year, and I would like to extend my thanks to them for their hard work, commitment and good counsel.

You may have read in the press that many schools have difficulties recruiting governors. We have been very fortunate to have had two parents volunteer to join us. Petra Charles has now become our Staff Governor, Alison James has been co-opted and Louise Jones was elected parent governor, unopposed.

GOVERNOR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Governors of all maintained schools have three main duties:

- to set the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school
- to hold the school leaders to account for the performance of pupils and the performance management of the staff
- to ensure the school's finances are well spent.

The governors fulfil these duties through meetings of the Board of Governors, visits and individual meetings with Mrs Jackson and other members of staff.

TRAINING, BRIEFINGS AND MEETINGS

Governors at Kingswood understand how important it is that we all keep up to date with legislation and current practice and attend courses that we feel will help us fulfil this commitment. Every Governor undertakes a full day of induction training, and at Kingswood we have an annual,

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in-house training session for all governors. Our in-house training was 'Preparing for OFSTED' and Governors attended e-safety training at school. One or more of us have attended training on Safer Recruitment, Prevent Duty, 30 hour provision, Managing Poor Performance, Fraud Prevention, attended briefing and up-date sessions and attended an All Party Parliamentary Group Meeting with Mrs Jackson in Westminster on the future of nursery schools.

In addition to formal training, this year we have introduced an information sharing item on every Agenda, where we learn about one aspect of practice at Kingswood.

VISION AND ETHOS

Taking our lead from Mrs Jackson, Governors and staff have worked together to develop a shared vision and ethos for Kingsway. This vision: to provide the best opportunities and achieve the best outcomes for every child in our care; where everyday is an exciting adventure. We have also developed a set of Core Values, which underpin all our work and that of every member of staff in the setting.

FINANCE

As a shareholder in Herts for Learning, we are able to buy in financial support, and we have visits every month from a member of the Financial Services Support team who helps Sam Godfrey complete monthly returns and monitor the budget.

Two Governors are very experienced in the field of Finance and they lead our discussions in this area. All governors have met to discuss the budget and agreed spending priorities for the year at a meeting specifically arranged to do this. We also have Finance on the Agenda at every meeting.

As a Board, we feel that Kingswood is most effective if we spend a very high proportion of our budget on well qualified dedicated practitioners. Our adult to child ratios are high and we feel this is a major factor in our success.

Every year the Board is required to complete a Schools Financial Value Standards assessment form which we submit to Hertfordshire County Council to demonstrate we have secure financial management in place. This year, as in previous years, we were able to do this, with no action points to take forward.

Governors are aware that our budget is likely to be under pressure in future years, and will do all we can to ensure we continue to achieve the best value we can under difficult financial circumstances.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Governors have also decided it will be advantageous for the setting to buy into the HfL Standards Package; which allows us to work with and benefit from the experience and expertise of a Hertfordshire Improvement Partner. The HIP works closely with Mrs Jackson and Governors to identify the strengths and challenges of the setting, to set priorities for the year ahead and then makes termly visits to measure progress against these targets.

As part of the strategic direction of the school, Governors regularly update and review our policies. We are particularly careful to ensure all safeguarding requirements are adhered to, and are proud of our OFSTED 'outstanding' rating for this area.

HOLDING SCHOOL LEADERS TO ACCOUNT

Having set the priorities for the year ahead, each governor undertakes to monitor particular areas of interest or expertise and to report back to the full Board. Each governor commits to at least two monitoring visits per year to fulfil this task. You can see the areas each Governor undertook to monitor in the above table.

This year Governors have worked hard to fulfil their duties and are confident the school is moving forward. At our summer review meeting our HIP confirmed that she was very happy with progress and pupil outcomes and was confident that we had moved forward since our last OFSTED inspection.

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If you would like more information about us, the Governors and our work, please visit the school website and take time to read the Minutes of our meetings which are posted on the notice board near the office.

Although it is true to say that all Governors have worked hard to fulfil their roles, I must add that the task has been made easier for us by the dedication of all staff members, so ably led by Mrs Jackson. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their dedication and hard work this year. Thanks too, go to Sam Godfrey our Clerk to the Governors who advises us and works so hard on the finances. Finally a big thank you to you, our Kingswood parents for all your support and encouragement. Together I feel, we make a positive and purposeful team, who have provided the best possible early education for our children.