



Castle Primary School

From small foundations, great castles grow

Governor Newsletter

September 2017

Our First Newsletter



We are delighted to be producing the first newsletter from the Governors of Castle Primary School. We would like to take this opportunity to explain a little about the role of the Governors, who we are and what we do to support the learning of your children in school.

Our role is prescribed for us by the Department for Education, this means we;

Establish the strategic direction, by:

- Setting the vision, values, and objectives for the school
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- Meeting statutory duties

Ensure accountability, by:

- Appointing the Headteacher
- Monitoring progress towards targets
- Performance managing the Headteacher
- Engaging with the school community
- Contributing to school self-evaluation

Ensure financial principles, by:

- Setting the budget
- Monitoring spending against the budget
- Ensuring value for money is obtained
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed



This means that ultimately the governing body is responsible for the following main areas:

- setting appropriate targets for pupil achievement, and monitoring and managing these;
- managing the school budget and making decisions on staff pay;
- making sure that the curriculum is balanced and broadly based;
- reporting to parents regarding National Curriculum assessments;
- appointing the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher;
- determining how the appointment of new staff will be managed;
- establishing procedures for the management of staff conduct and discipline and staff grievances;



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- establishing, following consultation with all staff, and reviewing annually a performance management staff appraisal system;
- managing governors' duties to pupils with Special Educational Needs;
- health and safety;
- management and maintenance of the school premises and new construction works.

Much of the above is achieved through governors supporting staff as critical friends.

Appointing a Governor

There are four types of governors;

- **Parent** governors are elected by parents, we currently have two of these
- **Staff** governors are elected by the staff, and we currently have one of these
- **LA** governors are elected by the Local Authority and although two of our members came to us through this route, as the governing body has had to reconstitute, they have since converted to become Co-opted governors.
- **Co-opted** governors are appointed by the governing body, we currently have six of these

All governors serve a term of office of four years

We have one committee, the Finance, Personnel, Premises and Health & Safety Committee
The Full Governing Body meet approximately six times per year

Our Governors at Castle

Currently we have nine governors and we would like to introduce ourselves;



- Co-opted Governor
- Chair of Governors
- Link Governor for Training
- Link Governor for Safeguarding
- Link Governor for Attendance

My name is Chrissie Arnold and my roles are;

I became a governor at Castle in 2012 after retiring from Headship in Somerset. My previous Headship was in South Bristol and through my career I served on the governing body of five schools. Currently, I work part-

time as an educational consultant supporting a variety of schools. I am a local Parish Councillor and I also Chair the Schools Admission Appeals panels and serve on the Exclusion Review panels for Somerset.

My husband is a retired Ofsted inspector and is also an educational consultant supporting schools in Bristol. I have two daughters, the elder of whom is a Deputy Headteacher and two grandchildren, Matt who is at University and Nicola who is at 6th Form. I also have two dogs who I love to bits!

Throughout my career, I have absolutely loved teaching children and I feel so lucky to be able to come into Castle and chat with your children. To me, being able to continue working to benefit children is the best opportunity in the world.

I have very recently been appointed as Chair and through this role I hope to do my very best for the children, staff and parents of Castle Primary!



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- Parent Governor
- Vice Chair of Governors
- Link Governor for SEND
- Link Governor for EYFS
- Link Governor for Pupil Premium

I am Louise Mattingley, Parent Governor and Vice Chair of the Governing Body. I am EYFS and SEND Link governor, (and chair a sub committee) I have 3 sons all of whom have attended Castle; Alfie who is currently in Year 3, Josh who is now studying for 'A' levels at Wellsway and Harry who is just about to

start life as a Uni Student!

I teach part time, and completely believe in a child centred approach to education where every child is supported to reach his or her potential, whilst given the opportunity to enjoy a rich and varied curriculum. I have been a governor for 3 years, and was also a governor at Castle and another school when my 2 older sons were young. I applied to the role because I care deeply about our school and the education our children receive here, and felt I was able to offer relevant skills as well as dedicate the necessary time to support the school in any way I can.



- Co-opted Governor
- Chair of Finance, Personnel, Premises and Health & Safety Committee
- Link Governor for Benchmarking

My name is Clare Kuchcinska, originally from East London but I have been in Bristol 20 years now and have been working for Lloyds Bank for 17 years. I have two adult children and remember the endless questions when they were at primary school age. Why Mummy? How Mummy? When Mummy? As parents we

are our child's first and most important teacher. By the time they come to school we will already have taught them how to talk, walk, play and laugh. Now they are at school we need to keep teaching them by listening to them read, help them with their maths and play games that encourage them to learn. I am looking forward to seeing your children's school work and seeing them enjoy their time at Castle school.



- Parent Governor
- Link Governor for Health & Safety
- Link Governor for PE

Ruth Nash; I'm a newly elected parent governor with two boys who are in Years two and three. I am a detective sergeant with over 20 years experience in the police and am currently working within public protection and safeguarding. I also volunteer at Keynsham Rugby Club managing the under 8 team and enjoy coaching them too.



- Co-opted Governor
- Link Governor for English
- Link Governor for Place2Be

My name is Alyson Marlor and I am privileged to be a governor at Castle. I have been a teacher for over 30 years and am also a Counsellor/ Psychotherapist. Education initiatives will come and go but I believe that we must keep the

individual child at the heart of all that we do in school. A strong belief in the right of every child to be the best they can is what motivates me. My eldest child spent his primary school years at Castle and my youngest is doing the same.



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- Co-opted Governor
- Link Governor for School Travel Plan
- Link Governor for Mathematics

Tina Murphy; I became a governor in 2008 so have seen Castle double in size in that time. I wanted to become involved in the community I live in and a school governor seemed a good choice. I have no background in education apart from going to school myself and having two children who obviously have to go to school! However, this does mean I can sometimes see things from a different view. I do have 30 years' experience of working in a service industry including managing and developing people. These skills transfer to the role of governor in many ways as children are little people and are at school to learn and develop. Children are amazing people and I feel privileged to be involved in their formative years.



Staff Governor

Nicky Wake; I have been a teacher here at Castle Primary School since 1999, where I started life as a newly qualified teacher. Since then I taught predominantly in the EYFS and KS1 and became EYFS lead around 14 years ago. I have been the Deputy Head here for the last 4 years and since then have also served as a Staff Governor. From September this year I have been very fortunate and privileged to take on the role of Acting Headteacher of Castle Primary School and am very much looking forward to the challenge of leading the school this coming year. We have a fantastic team in place and we are all excited about the opportunities that we have no doubt this year will bring.



Co-opted Governor

Ali Richards; Having served as a parent governor for a number of years at my own children's school, with responsibility for Health & Safety, Premises and Change Management, I moved from roles in the NHS to B&NES's Children's Services (Education Welfare, Parent Partnership and Behaviour Support) before being appointed to local primary schools in admin/finance posts. I have been working as Business Manager at Castle since September 2005, spending time as Clerk to Governors before becoming a Co-opted Governor.



Co-opted Governor

Alison Blackman; I have been a Governor for almost a year now. I chose to join the Governing body because I wanted to know what went on behind the scenes and how decisions were made about the running of a school. I have been teaching for 14 years in September and have loved every minute of it. I originally did a student teaching experience at Castle School and had wanted to come back to the school ever since. It took 10 years but finally I made it and have not looked back since!



Clerk to Governors

Sarah Derrick; This will be my third year clerking for the Governing Body at Castle Primary. I have been clerking for 9 years and also clerk for St Keyna and Whitchurch Primary Schools. In my other role, I also provide administration support to the Keynsham and Chew Valley Primary Pastoral Partnership. The role of the Clerk and Governors has changed greatly in my time as a Clerk and I enjoy helping and assisting the governing body in fulfilling its duties.

We trust you have enjoyed finding out about our governors and what we do.

Perhaps, if the opportunity arises you may be inspired to join us!

Currently we do have some co-opted governor vacancies.



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