

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

It is a great privilege to be in a position to write to you on behalf of the Governing Body of our lovely school. Two of my grandchildren happen to be current pupils, but I have a responsibility – as does each of my fellow governors – to have regard for the interests of all pupils, staff members, parents and the wider community.

So, what exactly do governors do? Our starting point is to determine a clear vision and ethos for the school, which takes full account of the views and aspirations of all stakeholders. We then put our vision into practice through a series of ambitious strategic priorities and targets. These are linked to the School Development Plan and are kept under constant review.

We work very closely with Miss Roberts, Headteacher, and the Senior Leadership Team to promote and maintain the highest possible standards of educational achievement. Through our oversight of pupil performance and the effective use of available resources, we seek to ensure that every child has the opportunity to take advantage of a broad, imaginative and stimulating curriculum. When the time comes for our pupils to move onto the next stage in their education, we want them to do so as confident, capable and rounded young people, well prepared for everything the future has to offer.

Another crucial part of our role is to ensure that policies and procedures are in place to guarantee the safeguarding and well-being of every child as well as the health and safety of the whole school community. In common with all school policies (details of which you will find on the website) these are reviewed on a regular basis, taking account of up-to-date advice from the local authority and central government.

We must ensure that the staff have the resources and support – including professional development - that they require to do their job well, and that this has a direct, positive impact upon educational standards. As you are probably aware, school resources have become increasingly stretched in recent years, so we have to perform something of a balancing act in order to take proper account of sometimes competing priorities. Our Finance/Premises/Personnel and Curriculum/Pastoral committees meet at least termly and report back to meetings of the full Governing Body, which take place twice each term.

The Governing Body comprises people from a wide variety of backgrounds who bring a range of different skills to their work on behalf of the school. The role is voluntary and unpaid. Governors give freely of their time to attend after-work meetings and to make visits to the school, typically focusing upon particular aspects of the School Development Plan. They also undertake regular evening and weekend training courses in order to update their knowledge and skills.

Underpinning everything, though, is our determination to build and maintain the positive relationships which make a vital contribution to the development of Sandridge School as a beacon at the heart of the community.

We look forward to working with you to provide the best possible experience for our children.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Boxer

Chair of Governors