

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

It is a great privilege to be able to write to you on behalf of the Governing Body of our lovely school.

My primary responsibility – and that of each of my fellow governors – is for the interests of every pupil, 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 closely linked to the curriculum and School Development Plan, which are kept under continuous review.

We work very closely with Miss Roberts and the Senior Management Team to support the promotion and maintenance of 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 each child has every 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 pupils and staff, and the health and safety of the whole school community. School policies (details of which you will find on the website) are reviewed on a regular basis, taking account of up-to-date recommendations from the local authority and central government.

In exercising oversight of the school's financial health, we try to 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 resources for all schools have become increasingly stretched in recent years, we have to perform something of a balancing act in order to take proper account of competing priorities. The Governing Body has four meetings scheduled during the year, in addition to which working groups are convened to consider specific needs as they arise.

The Governing Body comprises people from a wide variety of backgrounds, bringing 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 focussing upon the priority areas set out in the current School Development Plan. They also undertake regular evening and weekend training courses in order to update their knowledge and skills.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Poole, Andy Hunt
Co-chairs of Governors