

MORLEY



MATTERS

Newsletter from the Governors of Morley Memorial Primary School – July 2012

‘View from the Chair’

Hello, my name is Nicky Odgers and I have recently become joint Chair of Governors with Sarah Seed. Sarah and I are both parent governors and next year we will have five children at Morley spread between Early Years and Year 4. We thought in this issue of Morley Matters we could clarify who the governors are and what we do.

There are four kinds of governors:

- Parent governors, who are elected by other parents at the school.
- Staff governors who are elected by school staff. The headteacher is a staff governor by virtue of his office.
- Authority governors who are appointed by the Local Authority.
- Community governors who are appointed by the governing body to represent community interests. They are generally, but not always, individuals who live or work in the community served by the school.

One of our roles is to work in partnership with the head teacher and senior management team to provide strategic leadership of the school. Every year, the head teacher and the governing body discuss the current priorities for the school and identify five or six key areas of development to be focused on. Targets are agreed and we consider how the school is going to make these changes happen. Governors then monitor how successfully the school meets these targets by talking to staff and pupils, looking at data and visiting the school.

We also influence the overall strategy of the school by working with staff to plan and develop policies. For example, this term the governors’ curriculum committee has discussed and agreed the school’s policies on special educational needs, sex and relationship education, the education of children with medical needs, the acceptable use of ICT and the policy on teaching, learning and assessment.

We have an obligation to ensure the school is accountable to parents and the general pupil for what it does and we also act as a “critical friend”, providing support and challenge where appropriate. One of the ways we do this is to review all the subjects taught to ensure the school fulfills its statutory obligations and to keep up the pressure on school improvement. Maths, literacy, science, ICT and early years are discussed every year. Other subjects, such as history, music or PE are reviewed every 3 years.

Over the past three terms, governors have also approved the school budget, helped the school interview for new staff, contributed to the head master’s review, organized the annual parental questionnaire, agreed the prospectus, and run a disability focus group.

We have a full Governing Body meeting altogether every half term. In addition, every governor is also a member of at least one subcommittee (finance, curriculum, personnel and facilities). These meet between two and four times a year. Governors are also linked to subject areas such as numeracy, literacy, music, sport etc.

We are very lucky at Morley to have a very committed, talented and experienced governing body. If you ever want to make contact, please do so via the school office.

Next term we will have vacancies for at least one parent governor and one community governor. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in joining us, please contact the office. No knowledge of education is required. The main criteria is a bucket full of enthusiasm and a willingness to get stuck in.

Meet the new Governors.....

Julie Gawthrope

I am currently a Curate at St John the Evangelist church, Hills Road, Cambridge but prior to being ordained I worked as a teacher in a Primary School, having trained at Homerton College 15 years ago. So I am familiar with a school environment and particularly enjoy the part of my current job which enables me to be with children! I have occasionally been involved with Morley when I have helped to deliver a small part of the RE curriculum on the Church and the Christian faith.



I moved into the area when I took up my post 2 years ago and I am married with two adult sons. Sport features in our family life; my husband is a keen golfer, my eldest son plays football and my youngest son is a tennis enthusiast. In my previous life as a teacher I was the PE leader in the school and I have witnessed the increasing emphasis on the role of physical education. Many of the children that are part of the Church family at St John's are also part of the school community; we both have the care and nurture of children in common! I am very pleased to become part of the governing body of the school and will endeavour to contribute with honesty and integrity.

Kay Blayney



I have lived in Cambridge all my life and now live just a couple of streets away from the school. My three boys all came to Morley and it has a special place in all our hearts.

I am now a teacher at Parkside having come from a 'theatre in education' background, where I led on community based projects. I like to think I am an innovative drama teacher, with excellent communication skills and experience in initiating and leading new approaches and collaborating on multidisciplinary projects. I am passionate about my community role within the Parkside Federation, where I have forged local and wider community links.

Kate Allan

I have lived in Cambridge for eight years: I studied at Jesus College for my degree in French and Spanish, and after graduating I just couldn't bear to leave! I now work at OCR, one of the three exam boards that make up Cambridge Assessment (a non-teaching department of the University). My work as Communications Manager sees me communicating regularly with Exams Officers in schools across the country delivering our exams.

I joined the Governing Body at Morley in the new year to get a different perspective of the education world, and I'm really enjoying getting to know the school.

