

Welcome from the Chair of Governors

On behalf of St Leonard's Primary School Governing Body, I would like to welcome you to our school's website. The website provides a mixture of information about what's currently happening in school, through activities and visits our pupils have taken part in, to administrative details such as the school organisation and policies.

At St Leonard's we aim to provide a fun yet challenging curriculum which motivates and develops the whole child in a safe environment, nurturing our pupils socially, morally and culturally as well as academically. We provide rich opportunities for learning which enable our children to acquire essential language, numeracy, scientific and technology skills within a creative curriculum. Through our St Leonard's **Charter** we aim to build pupils who are confident, respectful, resilient, responsible, reflective and caring. We encourage our pupils to have high personal ambitions and strive to help them achieve their best in everything they do. As a governing body, we are proud of our school and our pupils and the very able and dedicated staff – both teaching and non-teaching – that make the school the success that it is.

Parental involvement is crucial to a child's education and we strongly value parents' support for the school, its ethos and rules. We are keen for parents, grandparents and the wider community to be involved with the school and we have opportunities for them to support in classrooms, around the school and at school events.

I hope you find our website interesting, informative and easy to use.

If your son or daughter is a pupil or future pupil at the school, may I take this opportunity to wish them a very happy and successful time with us.

Lyn Paxton

Chair of Governors

The role of the Governing Body

The governing body is accountable to the Department for Education for the strategic leadership of the school. It is responsible for both the conduct of the school and for the promotion of high standards. It carries out its role by setting the vision for the school, ensuring that the school works efficiently and effectively towards achieving its vision, and that ultimately the school provides an effective and high quality education for our pupils. This is ensured by having a thorough knowledge of the school, by both supporting and constructively challenging the school, and by ensuring accountability and compliance.

The full governing board meets twice each term as a minimum to consider the reports of the Headteacher, and its link governors. The current governing board works on a no committee structure. Link governors are individual governors assigned to specific curriculum or significant focus areas and they meet their staff counterparts at least termly.

Governors carry out regular visits to the school to meet with staff and pupils, work with members of the Senior Leadership Team and to undertake activities to support their evaluation of the school's work.

The governing board of our school is made up of parent, staff, local authority and co-opted governors. As this list indicates, the governors are not all education specialists; many are lay people with job roles outside of education. Our governors have a variety of experiences and expertise in business, public service, higher education, Primary education, local government, etc.

The usual term of office is four years but many governors stand for re-election and serve for more than one term.

Further details of the different types of governor are:

Parent Governors: are elected by parents/guardians of registered pupils and must be parents/guardians at the time of election. Parent governors do not have to leave if their child leaves during their term of office, but they can if they wish to do so.

Staff Governors: are elected by the staff employed to work at the school. Once they cease to work at the school their term of office will be terminated.

LA Governors: are nominated by the Local Authority and are often political appointments. LA Governors do not have to be Borough Councilors but are sometimes members of a political party in the area and they usually live locally.

Co-opted Governors: are appointed by the governing board based on their skills and experience and currently serves a term of twelve months.