

Old Dalby Church of England Primary School



Governing Body 2019-20 Annual Report

Kind hearts, open minds, courageous spirits.
Together we will explore life in all its fullness.

Let us be kind to one another, to help one another, to show love and to do good. Hebrews
10:24

The Governing Board has the following core strategic functions:

Establishing 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

Ensuring accountability, by:

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

Ensuring financial probity, by:

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

Governing Body 2019/20

Name	Position		Appointed		Ceased	AGM attendance
Member						
Mrs Margaret Morris		Leicester Diocesan Board of Education	20/09/2016			Yes
Rev'd Peter Hooper		Community	17/09/2017			No
Mrs Kate Purcell		Community	01/10/2016			Yes
Diocese of Leicester		Leicester Diocesan Board of Education	01/09/2013			No (appointed proxy)
Trustee/Governor/Director	Position	Appointment		Term of Office		FGB meetings attended
Miss Christine Todd	Chair	Leicester Diocesan Board of Education	27/09/2019	3 years	26/09/2022	4 of 4
Mrs Rachel Holland	Vice-Chair	Parent	08/12/2016	4 years	07/12/2020	3 of 4
Mrs Rosemary Browne		Ex officio Head Teacher	01/01/2017	4 years	Not recorded	4 of 4
Mrs Charlotte Cahill		Governing Body/Board	29/01/2020	4 years	28/01/2024	1 of 2
Mrs Teresa Fowkes		School staff	15/09/2019	4 years	14/09/2023	3 of 4
Mrs Elizabeth Hickton		Foundation/Trust	29/01/2020	4 years	28/01/2024	1 of 2
Mr Paul Hutchinson		Academy member	08/12/2016	4 years	07/12/2020	3 of 4
Mrs Sally Oldfield		Foundation/Trust	29/01/2020	4 years	28/01/2024	1 of 2
Mrs Jayne Scott		School staff	08/01/2017	4 years	07/01/2021	4 of 4
Mr Mark Wright		Parent	08/12/2016	4 years	07/12/2020	4 of 4
Mrs Kate Allington	Clerk					

Committees and attendance 2019-2020	
Personnel & Finance	Attendance
Miss Christine Todd	3 of 3
Mr Paul Hutchinson	3 of 3
Mrs Rosemary Browne	3 of 3

Pecuniary Interests				
Name	Current Employment	Nature of Business	Nature of Interest	Other
Mrs Margaret Morris		Farming, JEC and MA Morris	Partner	
Mrs Carolyn Lewis	Diocese of Leicester	Director of Education	Employee	
Rev'd Peter Hooper	Diocese of Leicester	Canon	Employee	
Miss Christine Todd		Farming, C and J Todd	Partner	
Mrs Rosemary Browne	Old Dalby C of E Primary	Education	Employee (Head Teacher)	Partner owns photography business
Mrs Charlotte Cahill				
Mrs Teresa Fowkes	Old Dalby C of E Primary	Education	Employee	
Mrs Elizabeth Hickton				
Mrs Rachel Holland	EON UK	UK Accommodation Manager Energy Supplier	Employee	
Mr Paul Hutchinson	Police Force		Employee	
Mrs Sally Oldfield				
Mrs Jayne Scott	Old Dalby C of E Primary	Education	Employee (Deputy Head Teacher)	
Mr Mark Wright	Ensek Ltd		Director	

Governors' Annual Report 2019-2020

When I took up the role of Chair of Governors in September 2019, I could not have imagined the extraordinary year which was to follow. In January 2020, news emerged from China about a serious viral pneumonia originating in the city of Wuhan. This was to be the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has since grown into the largest health and economic crisis in recent times. Its effects have been felt in all aspects of society, not least in our schools, and it is within this context that I write my first report.

There have been some changes to the Governing Body during the year. In June 2019, Mrs Elaine Pszenyczniak stepped down from the Board after many years of service, most recently in the role of Chair. For a number of years, she served on the Personnel and Finance Committee and was also a member of the Performance Management Committee, which serves to both challenge and support the Headteacher in her leadership role, thus helping to ensure that pupils make good progress. Mrs Pszenyczniak was a highly valued governor, who approached her work in a calm and considered manner. She was not afraid to make difficult decisions, combining pragmatism with sensitivity.

Mr Paul Hutchinson relinquished his role on the Board in September 2020, having completed his term of office. He also served as a member of the Personnel and Finance and the Performance Management Committees. Mr Hutchinson was measured in his approach and he could be relied upon to exercise good judgement when searching for solutions. His experience as a police officer proved a valuable asset and he was always totally supportive of the school and its staff.

I would like to thank both Mrs Pszenyczniak and Mr Hutchinson for their dedicated service to the governing body. The governors are extremely appreciative of the care, attention and commitment both gave to the role. Their support has undoubtedly played a part in the success of the school, helping to provide its pupils with many valuable opportunities.

Three new governors have been appointed to take their place. Mrs Charlotte Cahill, Mrs Elizabeth Hickton and Mrs Sally Oldfield were appointed on 29th January 2020. Mrs Cahill has joined the Performance Management Committee and Mrs Oldfield has joined the Personnel and Finance Committee.

Governors have attended trainings during the year on a variety of subjects including: Academy Finance; SEND; Vision, Ethos and Strategic Direction; Ofsted – Understanding the Framework; Virtual Meetings and Governance. The latter proved extremely useful, as, since the lockdown in March 2020, all governors' meetings have been held via the Zoom platform.

In January, governors were invited to attend a presentation by the Headteacher on the subject of the new school curriculum. Mrs Browne shared with us the philosophy and aims of the new curriculum. Underpinning it is the Church of England's Vision for Education, which highlights the desire for pupils to experience "life in all its fullness" (John 10:10). It aims to educate the whole person, developing physical and intellectual attributes, alongside spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The school had sought the opinions of parents, pupils and staff before commencing the project, and senior staff had spent many hours building a curriculum which matched the desired objectives and established cross-curricular links. It was clear to governors that much work had gone into preparing a curriculum which is exciting, innovative and challenging. Work is continuing to monitor and evaluate the impact of the new programme in both an academic and pastoral sense.

At the end of March, the UK Government imposed a nationwide lockdown, and all schools were forced to close for the majority of pupils. Old Dalby School remained open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers, with strict safety protocols in place. At the same time, teachers maintained some learning continuity for those pupils not in school, providing resources for home schooling. Schools remained closed for a period of 10 weeks, then, at the beginning of June, the school reopened for pupils in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6, as well as the children of key workers, with extra measures in place to ensure the safety of both staff and pupils. In September, following a decline in the number of Covid-19 cases, all pupils returned to school. Year groups were organised into "bubbles", and children soon learned the strict hygiene measures necessary to protect themselves and others from the virus. After their enforced absence, the children were clearly delighted to return to school.

Since September, the children's attendance has continued to be excellent, and their care for one another reflects the Christian values the school strives to inculcate.

The governors recognise that this has been an exceptionally challenging year for the Headteacher and her staff. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought with it not only an increased workload, but also additional emotional pressures. Nevertheless, the staff have responded positively to constantly changing demands from the government and have continued to ensure that school provides a safe and happy environment for the children. We are extremely grateful to them for their dedication and commitment to the education of our children.

As governors, we consider it a privilege to serve Old Dalby C of E primary school; we have a wonderful school, enthusiastic and committed staff, an active parent-teacher association, and most important of all, fantastic children. The Governing Body will continue to support the school in delivering its objectives, striving always to develop and improve.