

WHITEHILL JUNIOR SCHOOL



**Meet
the
School
Governors
October
2018**

Dear Parents

I would like to introduce you to the School's governing body as I am aware that many of you may not know who we are or what we do. We have a very keen, enthusiastic governing body at Whitehill, with a new group recently joining, mixed together with an experienced majority; we have a great blend of skills and experience. Our team of governors get involved in school life in many ways: school visits by link governors, participation in key activities such as Science week, supporting the leadership with school visits, benchmarking our budgets, and asking questions on policies. We're here to support the leadership team by being their 'critical friends', holding the school to account on behalf of parents and the local authority.

All governors are volunteers, normally serve a 4-year term and take an active role in the school. Each have their own specialist area of responsibility and regularly liaise with relevant staff and feedback their findings to the full governing body. The full governing body meet on a termly basis and these meetings normally follow those of the sub-committees. The sub-committees deal with specific areas of school life such as Premises, HR, Finance and Curriculum and consist of just those governors with the relevant interest and skillsets.

Our governing body consists of 12 people taken from both within the school and the local community. They are –

1 x Headteacher

1 x Staff Governor

4 x Parent Governors

4 x Co-opted Governors (These are local community members who have relevant skills to support the school)

1 x Local Authority Governor (Approved/recommended by the local authority)

1 x Associate Governor (invited to join to share knowledge and skills)

Attached is a full list of our governors and their responsibilities as well as a brief pen-portrait just so you know who we are should you see us in the playground or around the school. Feel free to say 'hi' and ask any questions should you have them. Please remember that any issues or complaints should still follow the normal procedure of firstly going through the relevant member of staff or the Headteacher.

Kind Regards,

Sam Addison
Chair of Governors
Whitehill Junior School

Sam Addison
Co-opted Governor



Joined Governing Body – Oct 2014

Main Responsibilities

- Chair of Governors
- School Development Plan – New classroom Building Project.
- Subject link – Sport.
- Committees – Premises, Finance, HR & Curriculum.

As a mother of three boys, all of whom have completed and benefited from their education at Whitehill, I feel strongly about supporting the school and playing a part in 'giving something back'.

With experience in property and construction as a Chartered Surveyor, and many years volunteering for Blueharts Hockey Club, I feel I offer proactive, practical support to the school in the role of governor.

I took on the role of the Chair of Governors in September 2017 and am excited about working with my fellow governors and the School's leadership team.

Laura Cole
Co-opted Governor



Joined Governing Body - April 2016

Main Responsibilities

- Child Protection/Safeguarding.
- School Development Plan – More able pupil progression.
- Committees – Curriculum (Chair).

I am Head of Philosophy and Ethics and Learning for Life at a local secondary school where I am also a safeguarding officer.

I am passionate about the need to encourage children to develop enquiring minds and a lifelong love of learning through creative teaching strategies. I feel I am able to support Whitehill by drawing on my knowledge of secondary transition, teacher training, safeguarding and inclusion.

As a parent of two young children who will eventually join Whitehill, I feel privileged to be able to take a role within their future school.

Gill Cook

Co-opted Governor



Joined Governing Body -Nov 2014

I have been working in education for the past twenty odd years, mainly in the school office but also as a teaching assistant for a while. I completed the 'School Business Manager' course in 2005. I enjoy running the cookery club after school and running events. I have worked in a voluntary capacity as treasurer for a local cub pack until it disbanded and as vice chair on the PTA when my children were at junior school. I am always a willing volunteer for any events happening at school.

Main Responsibilities

- Policies, Finance.
- School Development Plan – New classroom building project.
- Subject link – n/a.
- Committees – Premises, Finance, HR.

Steve Mills

Head Teacher



Joined Governing Body – Sept 2013

Having taught in both Luton and Hitchin I was appointed Head of Whitehill in September 2013. One thing I have found since taking up this post is that time goes even quicker than it did when I was in the classroom. No two days are the same and even when you think your diary is clear: something (or someone) will keep you very busy! The aim for me is to build upon the many successes of the school, including the 2017 Ofsted inspection, and to continue to ensure our pupils leave Whitehill ready to take on the challenges of secondary school. I firmly believe in the power of communication to drive us forward and hope that this is evident from the way I lead the school.

Main Responsibilities

- Reporting to Governing Body.
- School Development Plan – All Priorities.
- Subject link – All
- Committees – Premises, Finance, HR & Curriculum.

Debbie Nisbet
Parent Governor



Joined Governing Body – Oct 2016

I knew when my daughter (now in Year 4) joined Whitehill that I wanted to become more involved with the school as it's philosophy and passion for children's learning through experiences closely matches my own. I also have a son joining the school in September.

I am SEND governor and am passionate about ensuring that all children receive an education that allows them to achieve their potential. My own experience in this area (as a local school INCo) means that I hope I can support in a meaningful way. I am very much enjoying getting more involved in the exciting Whitehill life– I can barely keep up with all the comings and goings, all of which enrich our children's education.

Main Responsibilities

- SEND and CLA
- School Development Plan – SEN
- Committees - Premises, Finance, HR & Curriculum.

Anna Pargeter
Co-opted Governor



Joined Governing Body – Oct 2016

I'm proud to have the opportunity to be involved with such a vibrant school that celebrates all aspects of a child's development. As a Mum of three children who do (or will) attend Whitehill. I am passionate about supporting the school and staff, to help them continue to deliver the fantastic educational experience that allows all of our children to achieve to the best of their ability.

I am also involved in Scouting in Hitchin and previously worked in data and marketing.

- Vice-Chair of Governing Body
- Chair of Resources
- School Development Plan – Embedding Core Purpose
- Subject Link – English (joint)
- Committees - Premises, Finance, HR & Curriculum.

Steve Partridge
Parent Governor



Joined Governing Body –November 2017

I have lived in Hitchin for 15 years now and have two boys at Whitehill.

I want to be a governor to give something back to the school and the community. I want to be part of the growth of the school and represent parents using this forum to hold others to account for ‘our’ school but also be pro-active in any developments and decision making that will add value.

Main Responsibilities

- Subject Link -
- Committees – Curriculum.

Nick Price
Parent Governor



Joined Governing Body –November 2017

I am a father of three, with Olivia recently joining Whitehill and my twins at Highbury.

Professionally, I deliver large technology programmes. A key aspect of my working life, is communication: engaging and forming trusted relationships with many stakeholders. I believe I bring many strengths from my professional experience into this role.

Education and schooling is at the heart of our community, and I’d be delighted to be selected as a Governor and contributing to the continued improvement of Whitehill.

Main Responsibilities

- GDPR
- Subject Link -
- Committees – Curriculum

Wendie Ray
Local Authority



Joined Governing Body – Nov 2014

Main Responsibilities

- Pupil Premium, Community Liaison/PR.
- School Development Plan – n/a .
- Subject link – Science.
- Committees – Premises, Finance, HR & Curriculum

I'm a working Mom. My son, Felix, is in 5SD. I have a PhD in Biophysics – but am more curious about the whys and the hows of stuff now than ever I was before! I've had a career in advertising for over 25 years, creating strategies for brands that enable them to become a part of people's lives. I know about bringing visions to life, about the power of ideas and stories to motivate and the importance of simply asking 'why'. I am passionate about encouraging the creativity and curiosity needed within education and learning. I want to help Mr Mills and the teachers bring their vision to life, so that our children have a great education and become curious, engaged individuals, with a passion for learning and for life.

Debbie Wells
Parent Governor



Joined Governing Body – Nov 2017

Main Responsibilities

- Subject Link -
- Committees – Premises, Finance, HR.

I am delighted that my twin girls have joined Whitehill in year 3.

I was born in Hitchin and love the town and community.

I work in a large primary school in Luton where I am the HR Officer.

I am enthusiastic about being a governor and I believe that with my knowledge and experience of working within a school, I can offer meaningful and practical support to the governors and the school and contribute to its continuing success.

Heidi Burniston

Staff Governor



Joined Governing Body – Sept 2018

Main Responsibilities

- Curriculum.
- Subject link – n/a.
- Committees – Curriculum.

I have worked at Whitehill since 2007, and also enjoyed a teaching placement here in 2005 whilst training. My current role affords me the opportunity to work with many colleagues regularly, which I feel helps me to understand and appreciate the perspectives of staff and pupils in all areas of our school. I have first hand experience of the demands of full-time whole class teaching, part-time teaching, working with pupils with SEN, and working with staff and parents across the school. I support the school council and regularly contribute to the wider school community by supporting PTA functions whenever possible. I have a good understanding of staff experiences and would welcome the opportunity to represent our staff views and voices as a Staff Governor.

Anna Beresford

Associate Governor



Joined Governing Body – Sept 2018

Main Responsibilities

- Curriculum.
- Subject link – n/a.
- Committees – Curriculum.

As a teacher of sixteen years and mother to two former pupils, I am passionate about education and Whitehill in particular. I have a deep knowledge of the curriculum and working practices at Whitehill but an openness to try new things and a willingness to be held to account. I am always looking for ways to improve the chances of all of our pupils and believe that being an active member of the governing body is one of the ways this can be done.

I'm a former governor of a local infant school and currently a governor of a local secondary school.