

Bacon Garth Primary School Governors –

Who we are and what we do.

Many people work hard to make Bacon Garth Primary School an excellent educational environment for your child to enjoy learning and achieve their full potential. While teachers and other staff often make themselves available for a chat, you might not get to meet the School Governors very often, so we'd like to tell you a bit about ourselves....

We are a group of local people who want to make a positive contribution to your child's education here at Bacon Garth.

Did you know...?

- School Governors form one of the country's largest groups of volunteers – there are around 300.000 of us.
- Governors come from every walk of life and many different parts of the community – you don't necessarily have to be a parent to be one.
- Bacon Garth Primary School has 9 Governors, including parents, staff, local people and community representatives.
- Individual governors have no power or responsibility. It is only the full governing body that has legal duties and powers. However, all governors share in that corporate responsibility. The school's direction is agreed by the governing body, headteacher and senior leadership team, who also make sure the school is meeting its targets.

What do we do?

School governing bodies play an essential part in raising school standards. Ofsted (the monitoring body for schools) notes that the most effective schools demonstrate excellent leadership and management – and that includes the governing body.

As Governors at Bacon Garth, we have three important roles to play:

- **Setting Strategic Direction** – We are involved in planning for the school's future, setting the aims and objectives for the school, as well as agreeing policies & procedures to achieve them.
- **Ensure Accountability** – We monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making against its objectives. We also monitor the budget.
- **Acting as a critical friend** – We provide support and challenge to the Headteacher and teaching staff.

The headteacher and staff manage the school on a day-to-day basis.

How do we do it?

Regular Meetings

We hold six full Governors' meetings per year, which every governor attends. The minutes are available on the school website. We also have two committees:

- **Leadership & Management Committee** – Monitors the school budget and capital expenditure. It also ensures the fabric of the buildings and the grounds are in good order. Monitors staff performance, leads on staff appointments and the broad range of human resource matters, as well as children's safeguarding
- **Teaching & Learning/ Curriculum Committee** – Oversees the development and changes to the curriculum, review of provision for vulnerable groups, pupil achievement - performance /data analysis, attendance & behaviour

Governors' meetings include a variety of agenda items:

- Updates from the Headteacher and other members of staff responsible for particular areas of the school curriculum.
- Reports from each of the committees, including changes to school policies.
- Review of school and pupil performance including finance, educational attainment and attendance.
- Agree and monitor the delivery of the annual school development plan.
- Discuss particular problems or issues and agree effective solutions.
- An opportunity to thank staff and congratulate them on success and learn of pupil achievements.

School Governor Visits

Our Governors are each linked to either a class and /or a subject area. In undertaking this role, they will join lessons and be involved in classroom activities and visits. This enables the Governors to have a greater understanding of the class and the curriculum being taught. We all enjoy visiting the school and finding out from the children what they are learning, what they are finding difficult and the progress they feel they are making.

Governors can be contacted through the school office 01482 849521 & office@bacongarth.co.uk

Useful Information if you are considering becoming a school governor.

School governors are volunteers who want to make a positive contribution to children's education. They do not need to be education experts or have formal qualifications. The most effective governors are those who:

- Have sound communication skills
- Are prepared to give time to doing the job well
- Listen, think and ask questions
- Believe that education is important
- Take an interest in the role of the school in the community
- Can work with others and assimilate a wide range of information and data