

Governing Body Update

We believe as a Governing Body that it is useful to update our community on key pertinent issues that formed the basis for healthy debate/agreement/ratification at our recent Governing Body meeting on Wednesday 5th May 2021.

During this year, one of the Governing Body's key foci has been to become more visible to the school community so that you understand what we do and know who we are. With this in mind we are continuing our theme of introducing you to members of the RWPA Governing Body so that you can feel comfortable in speaking to us when you see us..

Amy Holden
(Wilkinson, Cobb and Hodgson Trust
governor)
SEND governor



I am a Wilkinson, Cobb and Hodgson trust representative governor.
I have been a governor at Robert Wilkinson for around 3 years and have previously been a staff governor in a school. I have been a primary school teacher for over 13 years with a specialism in early years and special needs. I have two children attending Robert Wilkinson one in pre-school and one in year 1 and they both love coming to school.
I adore the outdoors and spend a lot of time with my children on Strensall common or at the beach with picnics. We also grow our own vegetables and have pet chickens.

Chris Chambers
(Wilkinson, Cobb and Hodgson Trust
governor)
Health and Safety Governor



I've lived in Strensall since 2009 and I became a school governor through my association with the Wilkinson, Cobb, Hodgson Trust, a charity set up many years ago to support the school. I'm retired and I keep myself busy and reasonably fit. I do some voluntary work with a local charity called York Neighbours and I'm also a member of the Parish Council and the Ebor Academy Trust. On the Local Governing Body, I have oversight of Health and Safety.

Attendance & Behaviour

Governors have a key role in ensuring that school systems are in place to monitor attendance and achieve the annual target of approximately 97%. We are delighted to report that attendance is nearing 99% which is excellent.

In addition we monitor behaviour and safeguarding at RWPA and we know the school has robust systems in place to ensure that the children are safe and reporting systems are effective. Jo Sutton the Deputy Headteacher is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mr Evans the Deputy Safeguarding Lead. The school team as a whole report that where there are issues of poor behaviour, parents are communicated with effectively and openly in order to maintain the key partnership around the child. The purpose of this is to jointly ensure that everyone understands the school behaviour code and school routines and work hard at maintaining them so that learning can happen for everyone. Partnership in this area is the most effective. In school the use of restorative practice and check in systems allow the pupils to have a voice in expressing their feelings and in resolving issues together. Here is a link to them on the school website if you are unsure. <https://rwprimary.co.uk/our-ethos-values/>

Recent pupil assessments

Governors had the opportunity to view and discuss the latest assessment data with Senior Leadership at school. We do NOT see individual data for GDPR and privacy reasons but we do have a role in holding the school to account for the progress and attainment of the pupils.

The latest tests have tested the children's learning up to this point in the school year and are used to inform key targets for children moving through the Summer term. This information was compared to the teacher assessment made when the children returned to school in September.

Governors are reassured by the results showing that a large proportion of the children are on track to reach the expected level of learning for their age group. The progress the children have made is extremely encouraging after what has been a difficult past two years. This highlights the amazing teamwork between school and home and the great resilience the children have shown too. Only by working as a partnership, home and school, can we make a difference to the children's learning over the lifetime the children are with us.

The promising data figures also confirm that school is making good use of the government 'Catch up' funding. The governors heard how this has been used to help facilitate learning interventions by either providing extra staff hours or extra resources/software including portable white boards enabling extra small group teaching to happen. At times during the school day there are numerous tables of small groups of learners in corridors, hall corners or even Mr Evans' office working hard on bespoke programmes of work designed to catch up on lost learning. It has been a different way of working that is for sure.

The Summer Term

Many of the School Governors also have a specific role to link with a specific area of school life in order to gain greater knowledge in that area of school life. With the gradual easing of Covid restrictions the governors will be able to come on site again to visit the staff who lead in those specific areas of school to discuss progress and the path ahead.

We will also continue to work closely with the senior leadership team to appraise the Covid guidelines as they change over the coming weeks, firstly to ensure that we are keeping staff, children, visitors and ultimately the community safe, but also to explore what we can do to broaden the curriculum and pupil provision.

Keep well and safe

RWPA Governing Body