



Welcome to the governors' section of the Riverside school website.

You will find under the other tabs, (below this one), records of our meetings and some information about how we organise ourselves; also a short profile of each of the school's governors (*'Meet the Governors'*).

What do governors do?

Many people might think: Isn't the headteacher the one who runs the school? Isn't the headteacher the person whom parents and staff will look to for direction or when things go wrong? 'Yes' is the answer to both of these questions. The headteacher **is** the most important person in any school.

But, nationally, we are moving quickly from a local authority-led system of schools to a school-led system. Many of the functions that used to be carried out by the local authority have already been or are about to be transferred to each school's governing board, and that applies even to schools that still get their funding, like Riverside, from the local authority, (which in our case is Haringey). The core functions of governing boards are set out in law. They are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students, and the performance of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well-spent.

All of this means that being a governor is rather more daunting, but also more interesting than it used to be. Although all governors are volunteers, many with full-time jobs and families to care for, we are fortunate in having a varied collection of skills and experience on our board. We are also lucky that the professional staff, from the headteacher to the teachers and classroom assistants, to the office staff and the site staff - are of such talent and quality.

Between us, governors and professionals, we hope to see the school and, most importantly, than anyone else, the students grow from strength to strength.

If you want to know more...

If you want to know more about the governing board and what we do, or if you are interested in becoming a governor, then please do contact me at Riverside School.

Kirstie Watkins

Chair of Governors

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