

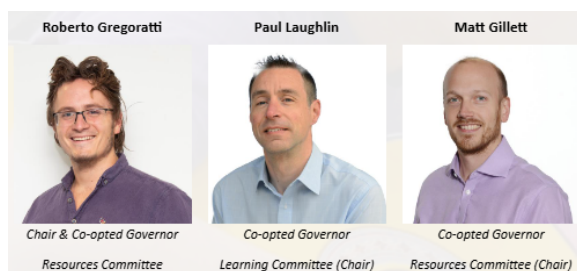
# Governors' Newsletter

## November 2024

As we come to the end of the first term of the academic year (already!) as Wellstead's governing board we would like to re-introduce ourselves! The views of everyone in our school community, parents and pupils very much included, are vital to us and the school's effectiveness, so (as you have also fed back via the Parents' Survey in July) we will keep you up to date termly with our work, and be present at as many key school events as possible - whether a Parents' Evening or Sports Day - so please do say hi, stop us, feed back and connect at any time!

### Who we are

There are 13 members on the Board, including Mrs Greenwood. We meet 6 times a year as a full governing body, and have 2 sub committees that meet twice per term, looking at Resources (e.g. monitoring how the school spends its budget, health and safety and safeguarding) and at Learning (e.g. curriculum and assessment results). You can find us all on the school website and on the photo board in reception too!



Rob has been chair of governors for a year, taking over from Paul, who remains a governor and chairs the Learning subcommittee, whilst Matt chairs the Resources subcommittee.

Your views and voice are represented by the parent governors, Colin Armstrong and Marsha Dearlove. At any time, you can reach out through

the school if you want to feed anything to the Governing Board for consideration, so please use this platform to make your views heard.

In the last year, we welcomed Marsha, Patricia, Sam, Russell and Silas to the Board as new governors, making us a full house and bringing a greater diversity of perspectives and backgrounds to the Board.

As governors, we are volunteers, who are either appointed by the local authority, co-opted (i.e. apply to be governors here and are voted in), parents or staff, all with a desire to help the school to be at its best!. We have a wide range of skills and backgrounds enabling us to support, question and challenge the senior leaders and provide a strategic direction for the school.

The Resources committee works hard with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that our budget is spent wisely and appropriately, including making some very difficult decisions in order to meet our responsibilities of keeping within the allocated budget and spending it most effectively for pupils.

### Curriculum

Part of our regular visits and duties involve monitoring the curriculum, the surroundings, and holding staff to account. We monitor educational performance within the school, looking at pupil progress data, and challenging on what is being done to improve outcomes for the children. Thanks to our numbers guru Mr Cook, who provides us with reports and valuable data highlighting the amazing achievements of our pupils and identifying areas that need to improve.

We have input to, and help draft, the School Improvement Plan every year, then monitor progress on the objectives set in that. Each of us also

has responsibilities for specific areas and subjects: Safeguarding, Maths, English, SEND etc, and undertake visits in school to monitor these, including listening to pupils' views!

We are also informed by exciting presentations from staff, lately on the new Maths curriculum approach, English, History, wellbeing and RSHE.

This all enables us to understand how the subjects are being taught, the topics covered, and data showing the achievement and progress of pupils.

### **Policies and Statutory Visits**

Another part of our duties is to review the school's policies regularly to ensure these are fit for purpose, and once approved these are then published on the school website.

Our Safeguarding Governor (Russell), and our Health and Safety Governor, (Pete) also make regular visits to the school to monitor these vital topics.

### **Training and development**

To ensure we are equipped to do the best possible job, all governors attended group training to better understand school curriculum - what should be included, how to deliver this and how that fits into the national and local picture, and this term we also learned about Ofsted in preparation for the next school inspection!

Individual governors also attend an induction, as well as courses on chairing committees, managing behaviour, mental health, Pupil Premium, holding leaders to account, Safeguarding, data, and health and safety, up to over 80 hours of formal training since last September! In addition to the courses run by Hampshire Governor Services, we also attend some of the school training sessions held on Inset days, and

subject leads regularly present to the board on their plans and progress.

We also evaluate our own performance! Recently completed, this has enabled us to get individual governor views on our strengths and weaknesses as a governing body; a key thing we all agreed on is to become better at communicating and being visible to parents, so expect to hear more from us to let you know of our work and plans for the future, and to see us at school events!.

### **Thank yous, hellos and goodbyes...**

We are extremely thankful to POW for all their work in organising events and fundraising - please continue to support all these great activities!

It is great to see pictures of the children's achievements and educational trips on the school Facebook page, so thank you to those who take and share the photos.

The school council pupils also impress us with regular, confident video messages on what the pupils want us to focus on - a huge thank you for the time and effort they put into these!

Farewell to those staff members who left us last term, whom we thank for their hard work, and wish the best in their future paths.

Likewise, a very warm Wellstead welcome to those members of staff who started us this term, and to our new year R pupils and families! We are excited to meet you soon.

### **All together, for us in the last year:**

80+ hours of formal training courses  
78+ hours of governing body meetings  
140+ hours of subcommittee meetings  
Countless hours for class and school visits, reading papers and preparation!  
But most importantly: **A lot of pride in Wellstead and its achievements!**