



Governor Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Charmouth Primary School Governor's newsletter! In this first edition, we thought it would be useful to give you a brief overview of our role, structure and who 'we' are!

Our role as a governing body is to be accountable, to provide checks and balances for the school in terms of holding the school to account, provide the strategic vision, monitor and evaluate the work of the school and responding to school improvement requirements.

Our Governing Body is structured into two committees which are the Resource Committee and Performance and Standards Committee. We meet at least once a month and then report into the Full Governing Body meeting, also held monthly. Adrian Ragbourne is the Chair of the Governing Body and Sue Allen is our Clerk to governors.

Chris Stamp is chair of the Performance and Standards committee which is comprised of Gillian Morris, Chris Stamp (Chair), Sharon Peel, Lynne Blackshaw and Edward Jacobs (a staff governor) and Jennie McGinlay (a co-opted governor) both elected by the staff and appointed by the Governing Body to contribute to the decisions that are made by the Governing Body as well as to build strong links between the Governing Body and the staff of the school). Chris Stamp is a former head teacher of a primary school, now retired. Lynne Blackshaw's extensive experience lies in Special Educational Needs and Safeguarding and Sharon Peel is a former teacher who now works in Early Years education for Dorset County Council.

The Performance and Standards committee work very hard throughout the year in supporting Gillian Morris and her team through monitoring, book scrutinies and evaluating data.

Andy Bateman is Chair of the Resource Committee, comprised of Gillian Morris,

Andy Bateman (Chair), Adrian Ragbourne, Dave Barton and Jackie Williams. Our collective experience lies in business, both public and private sector, construction, management and finance.

On resources committee we spend our time on overseeing finance and budgets, HR, recruitment, Health and Safety, premises and marketing and publicity and supporting Gillian Morris in many ways behind the scenes.

Both committees also spend time supporting Gillian Morris in reviewing the many policies and procedures that are required in schools and keeping these up to date.

And finally, as governors, we are also required to keep up to date with current legislation and we attend many training courses throughout the year.





Meet The Governors!

This edition we are introducing you to the two Chairs of our Committees!

Andy Bateman



I am a co-opted governor, Vice Chairman of the Governors and Chair of the Resource Committee. I am married to Chris and have 3 grown-up children. I moved to Charmouth in November 2013 after taking early retirement.

My career includes working in the Rail Industry for 14 years as a Programme Manager managing a portfolio of major re-signalling projects, primarily in South Wales. I am qualified as an electrical engineer and worked in the Power industry for 27 years as a Project Manager/Engineer on projects in power stations and large industrial businesses.

I have experience in managing budgets, programmes; health & safety, asset renewals and personnel.

I am involved with the local community, being part of the Neighbourhood Plan committee, the local church and a volunteer for 'Care for the Family' charity.

My term of office ends in May 2019.

Chris Stamp



I have recently moved from Somerset to Charmouth where I have been made very welcome by everyone in this community. My skills and experience have developed over a considerable length of time in primary education. I have enjoyed all my posts as a teacher, a Headteacher, an Inspector, a Leading School Improvement Advisor and a Governor. I adamantly believe that all children should enjoy learning, have interesting wide experiences and attain a good standard of basic skills. My primary reason for becoming a Governor is to make a positive contribution to the community. I aim to achieve this by working with the Governing Body and the School Team to ensure Charmouth Primary School continues to thrive and provides a high quality education for all of the children now and in the future.

I am currently the Chair of the Performance and Standards Committee which meets every half-term. Each member of this committee actively supports the school and monitors a range of aspects through visits, meeting with staff and children, looking at documentation and keeping up to date through training.

My term of office ends April 2019.





Hot Topics

Vision Session

All good schools need a clear vision of what makes them good, what is at the heart of their school and what will make them great in the future. So with this in mind the whole teaching and non teaching staff and governors came together for a few hours on 21st October 2016 to reflect on this and come up with a renewed plan.

I had volunteered to plan and lead the session, not only because I have experience in providing training and support for schools in my day job, but also as parent governor, I feel passionate about ensuring our children get the best from their primary school years.

All parents and children had also had the chance to feed in their ideas via a questionnaire asking for opinions on key themes. There were some brilliant suggestions, including making improvements to our outdoor learning environment and having buddies with children in different classes.

Great ideas were definitely not in short supply! Every member of staff and governors contributed to discussions and debates around key themes. Pages of paper were filled with words, phrases and ideas for what makes Charmouth a great school for everyone involved with it. Actions for the future were collected and will now be fed into the school's vision, ethos and mission by the Senior Leadership Team.

Everyone involved in the session fed back how useful it was to be able to spend time reflecting on what is at the heart of Charmouth School (the ethos) and what we feel should be our core values. They were inspired then to think about a vision for the future and how we are going to achieve this. By the end of the morning session we were exhausted but there was a positive buzz as people left still talking through their ideas. So watch this space as the ideas start to take life! There was a definite feeling of great expectations for Charmouth Primary.

by Sharon Peel (Parent Governor)

So that's all for this edition! With just a final note to say that two Parent Governor positions are becoming vacant on the 21st January as Sharon and my (Jackie Williams') terms of office come to a joint end after four years. I shall feel sad to have reached the end of my time as a Governor as I have found it such a rewarding as well as challenging experience.

Our Clerk, Sue, will be running the election. Details have been sent out to all families and if you are interested in applying, please complete the nomination form and return it to the school no later than Friday 27th January by 4pm. You will also be able to find the information on the school website. If you have any questions, please do feel free to ask any one of us about the role!

From The Charmouth School Governing Body

