

## **Welcome to the Governors section of Southwood Infant School website.**

We hope that you will find the information in this section useful in terms of understanding the overarching role of the Governing Body as a whole and the roles and responsibilities of individuals within our team.

School governors now play an increasingly significant, strategic role in the running of schools. We feel it's a huge privilege to serve the school and be an integral part in ensuring the children at Southwood receive the very best education they deserve.

### **The Role**

We work very closely with Mrs Southgate, our Head Teacher, and focus on three core functions:

- \* Setting the school's strategic direction and priorities, ensuring all statutory duties are met.
- \* Challenging and supporting the Head Teacher; holding the school to account for the quality of education it provides for every child in the school.
- \* Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure the budget is well spent.

Our Governing Body currently consists of 12 members:

- \* The Head Teacher
- \* 1 Staff Governor – elected by the whole Staff
- \* 2 Parent Governors - elected by parents with a child at the school
- \* 1 Local Authority Governor
- \* 7 Co-Opted Governors – appointed by the Governing Body to represent community interests

We currently have a vacancy for a parent, Local authority and Co-Opted governor . If you are interesting in applying, please contact the school office or our Chair of Governors, Nina Lynch, for more information.

### **Meet the Governors**

#### **Nina Lynch**

My name is Nina Lynch and I am Chair of Governors here at Southwood Infant School. I was elected as a parent Governor when my son started in Reception, 6 years ago, and although my daughter has recently moved on to junior school, and I have moved to be a co-opted governor, I decided to continue as a governor and Chair. I have been Chair for almost 2 years. I am very proud of the school and its achievements. Southwood has strong leadership, with inspiring ambitions in pursuit of our aims, excellence, respect and enjoyment, as a governor I am very proud to be part of that. I have gained an enormous amount of experience in a wide range of areas, having been a member of all the committee's, and I am looking forward to continuing to share that experience with new members of our governing body and to further my knowledge as we move forward on our shared journey.

#### **Caroline Stacey**

My name is Caroline Stacey and I have been a Governor at Southwood Infant School for 6 years. I joined the Governing Body in 2011 as a parent governor when my eldest was in Reception. Having seen him make such a fantastic start at Southwood, I was keen to learn more about the running of a school and use my professional background to support the leadership team. To date I have held a variety of roles including Vice Chair, Chair of Personnel and Curriculum Committees, member of the Pay Committee and I currently sit on the Head Teacher Performance Review panel. It has been incredibly rewarding to use my HR knowledge and to further adapt and enhance my skills. Although my eldest is in secondary school now and my youngest is at junior school I decided to continue at Southwood as a Co-opted Governor – it is great to be part of a team with a shared vision for excellence and I am very proud of what we have and continue to achieve for the school and the children.

#### **Carly Jones**

Hi I'm Carly Jones and I am a Co-opted governor, the vice chair of the governing body and I also chair the Resources and Personnel committee. In 2013 I took over the running of the after school club here at Southwood and as soon as I did I fell in love with the school!

Quite quickly I realised I wanted to make a positive contribution to the school and play an active role in helping the school go from strength to strength, so became a governor and have enjoyed it ever since. There are challenges we have faced, but the benefits far out way them and I am excited about the future of the school.

### **Hannah Stiff**

My name is Hannah Stiff. I am a parent governor and I have been on the governing body since November 2016. I have two children of my own, the eldest of which attends Southwood Infant School. I have been a teacher of children with specific learning difficulties for twelve years, and it is exciting to see, and be a part of the other side of the way schools are run and maintained. I chose to become part of the governing body so I could support the local community, and support the school in its development. With a strong and inspiring management team, I am excited to see how the school grows and progresses over the coming years.

### **Laura Dobson**

My name is Laura Dobson, I am a co-opted governor and I sit on the Curriculum and Standards Committee. Having been a teacher for many years, I am now a school improvement advisor, working with schools across Surrey and beyond. I also have 2 small children of my own. I chose to become a governor to support my local community and to develop an understanding of the strategic running of a school. It's a fascinating, fun and rewarding role. Southwood is an excellent infant school with incredibly hard-working teachers, delightful children and inspiring grounds. I am excited to see how it continues to flourish under an ambitious leadership team next year.

### **Lena Potamianou**

My name is Lena Potamianou and I have recently joined the Governing Body at Southwood Infant School. I am a mum of two boys, my youngest currently in Year 1 and my eldest just started Junior School. I was born and raised in Greece, studied Physics at the University of Athens and moved to the UK 22 years ago to continue my studies with a Master's degree in Telecommunications. After having worked for over 17 years as an Electronics Design Engineer, I decided to have a career break and dedicate more time to my family. My connection to the school started back in 2014 when my eldest joined Reception. Since then, I have been really impressed with the amazing improvement the school has undergone and the dedication and commitment of the Staff and the Governing Body. My two sons have benefited hugely from the school and, like all parents, my husband and I have been extremely pleased to see them enjoying learning, feeling happy and safe. I am very proud to be part of this excellent team of governors and have the opportunity to understand more about how this great school works and how we can possibly make it even better.

### **Madi Jabbi**

My name is Madi Jabbi, I am a Parent Governor and have held this position for just over a year. I work as an Operational Security Manager for a charity called The Society of St James.

I applied for the role as a Parent Governor as my Children were attending Southwood. I could see what a warm and welcoming environment my children were being well taught in and I wanted to provide my time to support the continued growth that the school is achieving. I enjoy being part of a team that works together to consult and encourage further improvements if required and to keep learning about the fantastic effort that is applied in making Southwood a great school for the local community.

## **How we function**

The whole Governing Body meets four times a year to discuss issues such as academic progress, the school development plan and its progress, Head Teacher's reports and policies.

The Governing Body is also split between two committees which meet each term to focus on:

1) Curriculum and Standards;

2) Resources and Personnel

These committees carry out visits and in-depth discussions, which are then reported back to the Full Governing Body (FGB).

Governors carry out visits to obtain first hand evidence of the school's progress against the strategic aims and objectives.

We also attend many of the enriching, creative events that happen during the school year, such as assemblies, enrichment weeks and residential trips.

*If you wish to contact the Governors, please do so via the school office*