



Southwood Infant School

The Governing Body at Southwood

We are incredibly proud to be the governing body at Southwood and work hard to ensure we fulfil our statutory requirements.

As a governing body, we have three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

We do this in a variety of ways – through meetings, monitoring and discussion. We meet as a full governing body 5 times a year, as well as meeting in sub-committees to discuss resources and personnel and pay and performance management.

Each governor is assigned to an area of the school development plan and has the responsibility of monitoring this area and sharing their findings with the full governing body.

We currently have ten governors at Southwood.

Members	Roles/ link area
Wendy Southgate	Headteacher
Rachel Park	Staff member
Nina Lynch	Chair of FGB, Chair of Resources and Personnel and link governor for the wider curriculum
Laura Dobson	Vice chair of FGB, Chair of pay committee and link governor for stakeholders.
David Bowers	Link governor for the wider curriculum
Mim Cure	Link governor for EYFS and transition
Jacqui Jennings	Link governor for English
Lena Potamianou	Link governor for maths
Hannah Stiff	Link governor for inclusion and safeguarding
Neil Wilcox	Link governor for health and safety

We undertake an induction and training as part of our role to ensure we can carry out our core functions effectively.

Governor Newsletter to Parents Autumn Term 2019



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Laura Dobson

Meet our New Governors

We are incredibly pleased to introduce our new governors who joined us this term.

David Bowers

My daughter joined Southwood Infant School in September 2018 and my son spent 3-years at the school between 2008 and 2011. Both of my children love the school, in fact my daughter is now being taught by the same fantastic teacher my son still calls his best ever teacher.

Having two children who have benefitted incredibly from this wonderful school and its excellent staff inspired me to volunteer and to become a part of the Governing Body in July 2019.

I am a co-opted governor and will be sitting on the Resources and Personnel committee.

Neil Wilcox

I would like to introduce myself as a new Parent Governor at Southwood Infant School. I am honoured to have recently been elected into an important position at such a fantastic and vibrant school. My eldest son is in his final year at Southwood and I have another two children who will also be coming to this wonderful school, one will be starting in September and one in a few years' time. It feels great to be a part of my children's adventure, to be able to give something back and be a voice, eyes and ears for the parents.

Although I am still trying to get my head around the world of education and trying to understand how a school is run, I know with the great support from the strong team of Governors I will learn my role in no time.

Hopefully with my 20 years' experience in the Security Industry I will be able to bring a lot of skills I have learnt to the role, such as: having a strong open-minded approach, understanding and enforcing procedures, assisting with Health & Safety and financial aspects of the industry.

I hope I can continue to help make a difference at Southwood Infant School for Mrs Southgate and her team for years to come. I am so excited about this opportunity with my new team of Governors.

Year R Parents' Lunch!

I am in the very privileged position of being both a Governor and a parent at Southwood. This half term I, along with many other reception parents, was invited to go and have lunch with my child. The children were tasked with finding their parent and showing them the routine for lunches at school. From what I could tell, all of the children took their leadership roles very seriously, and there was no messing around from any grown up!

The lunchtime was a delight - the children were all chatting with their parents, telling them about their morning, as well as having conversations with their friends. The manners I observed were impeccable too - such a great example of the respect they all have for one another, which is instilled in the Southwood ethos. I would like to thank all of the staff, but particularly the lunchtime supervisors and the chefs, for such a positive and enjoyable experience. It is lovely to have an insight in to the school day and the food was delicious!

Hannah Stiff

Super Running Club!

Southwood offers a brilliant after school club for our pupils – it is led by Tracy Godfrey (Kids Fitness 4 Fun) and is a super opportunity for children to run and have fun at the same time.

This term my son Harry has attended and I have really been impressed with the range of activities that Tracy packs into an hour and how much the children enjoy it. Southwood pupils are lucky to have their own field and all of the sessions take place there so lots of fresh air for the youngsters after a day of learning.

A big thank you to Mrs Southgate and the school for subsidising this club and allowing the pupils to keep fit and enjoy a sport.

Mim Cure



Safe at School

As part of my role as Safeguarding Governor, I work with Wendy Southgate in assessing the effectiveness of the safeguarding procedures, including education at Southwood School. Through meeting with Wendy, I can confidently say that Southwood Infant School is fully committed to safeguarding their pupils and families, and they do this comprehensively and effectively.

The next step is to find out whether or not the children feel the same. To help establish this we held a pupil conference with children from all three year groups, and we asked them a selection of questions about being safe at school. All of the responses were very positive, and the vast majority of children said they felt safe at school either most or all of the time. More importantly, 100% of the children we spoke to said that they knew an adult that they could speak to if they were feeling worried. This is a huge credit to the staff team at Southwood, where a culture of safety, care and respect is instilled throughout every aspect of school life.

A reminder that if anyone has any concerns about the welfare of a child, then to contact Wendy Southgate, the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Hannah Stiff

Financial Oversight

A key role of the Governing Body is overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure that its money is well spent.

The biggest spend in all schools is on staffing and, as governors, we work alongside Mrs Southgate and her team to ensure that we recruit the best staff and offer them excellent development opportunities. We are delighted to have a team at Southwood who all share the same drive to achieve the very best standards of education for our children.

We also oversee the school's spending on resources, ensuring that this supports the delivery of a rich and exciting curriculum.

As you are no doubt aware, school budgets have been under huge pressure over recent years as costs such as pay, pension contributions, the apprenticeship levy, have risen without income rising to offset the impact of this. As governors, we work closely with Mrs Southgate and Mrs Padday to ensure that we maximise every penny of our income, seeking efficiencies where possible whilst ensuring that

these have no detrimental impact on the quality of provision for the children.

Our support and challenge is shown through monitoring, auditing and benchmarking activities and through our regular Personnel and Finance Committee meetings which then inform the full Governing Body.

We are incredibly proud to say that our financial oversight activities show that not only do Mrs Southgate and Mrs Padday provide highly efficient and effective management of our school budget but that also, through seeking out grant funding and through the fantastic fundraising support of FSIS, they manage to provide an incredible amount of self-generated income for the school (significantly above those similar schools included in our most recent benchmarking exercise). The hard work and dedication which makes this achievable is hugely appreciated.

As a Governing Body, we take our role in financial oversight incredibly seriously and will continue to work with Mrs Southgate and her team in order to continue to achieve excellent financial management at Southwood Infant School.

Jacqui Jennings

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful festive season and Christmas break.

