

Chellaston Junior School Governing Body

1. What is the Role of a Governing Body?

The Government set out the role of Governing Bodies as follows:

“Governors are strategic leaders of our schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education. The main purpose of school Governing Bodies is to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement at the school. Governing Bodies have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction*
- holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff*
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.”*

2. Who are we?

We are a voluntary body who support the work of the school to ensure that we are providing the best quality of education for all our pupils. We have five Parent Governors who are elected by parents, three Foundation Governors who are appointed, one Governor from the Local Authority, the Headteacher and one Governor elected by the staff. The Governing Body of CJS is as follows:

| Governors | Type of Governor |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Paul Withey (Chair) | Foundation |
| Stephanie Wright | Foundation |
| Simon Fisher | Foundation |
| Louise Costigan | Foundation |
| Dave Williams | Parent |
| Andrew Holden | Parent |
| Hannah Finch | Parent |
| Joanne Harrison | Parent |
| Jenny Burton | Parent |
| Joanna Blanc | Local Authority |
| Katherine Daintith | Staff Governor |
| James Emery | Headteacher |

(Marie Lewis is the Clerk to the Governors, advising on matters of procedure, ensuring clear communication with all Governors and keeping minutes of meetings. Mandy Fogg, Deputy Headteacher, attends Governors meetings as an observer and works very closely with Mr Emery and the Governing Body to liaise on matters of leadership and management.)

3. What does the Governing Body do at CJS?

The Full Governing Body at CJS meets five or six times a year to discuss the strategic direction of the school. The Headteacher presents a report on the work of the school and each committee of Governors report back on their work. The main focus at this meeting is to discuss the School Development Plan, agree policies for the school and review the school budget in order to make key decisions to help the school move forward. An important aspect of this is managing a budget of over £2 million, with a staff of around 80 people. A key area is to review the performance of the school in terms of Key Stage 2 results in English, Maths and Science, in terms of attainment and progress, looking at the standards of the school compared to those of similar schools and all schools nationally.

Governors also link to a specific curriculum area and will meet with the member of staff responsible to discuss action plans, strengths and areas for development. Training is also important. There are a number of sessions each year where Governors undertake training in many areas such as Understanding School Data, Ofsted and The Role of Governors.

Governors also undertake regular Governor Visits on various aspects of the School Development Plan. This involves seeing lessons in action, talking to pupils and meeting with senior staff. The Governors who have undertaken the visit, report back to the Full Governing Body.

Committees

The work of the Governing Body is also undertaken in committees, which meet at least once each term. The committees for 2018-2019 are as follows:

Standards Committee

This committee oversees all curriculum policies and plans, discusses feedback from staff on all areas of the curriculum, reviews attainment and progress in all subjects, and all matters relating to the welfare and safety of pupils.

Resources Committee

This committee covers the budget, financial procedures, asset management, premises maintenance and all matters of Health and Safety. It is also responsible for all the policies involving the staff of the school and oversees staff appraisal. Staffing structures are also discussed to inform future budgets.

4. What actions have the Governing Body discussed recently?

The Governing Body have made many decisions in recent years which have helped CJS sustain high standards, provide a broad and balanced curriculum, maintain safe and suitable premises, safeguard all pupils and ensure that we work in partnership as a community:

Listening to parents

Each year the Governors review feedback from parents via the questionnaire in July. Recently we have considered parental views and implemented the following actions:

- Provided more private changing arrangements for PE in Y5 and Y6
- Extended the Y6 Residential visit to all pupils who wish to participate
- Developed the playgrounds to include a MUGA
- Worked with the Infant School to arrange the same INSET days for both schools

Curriculum Provision

Several years ago, the Governing Body decided to review the plans in all areas to provide a more holistic approach based on attitudes, skills and knowledge, which has provided a broad, balanced, interesting and engaging curriculum. Each year, the Governors review the Teaching and Learning overview for the school to ensure that it is still meeting the needs of our pupils.

Music in Year 4

The Governors decided to spend £7,000 to purchase enough instruments for all Year 4 pupils to have the opportunity to play a musical instrument at home and school. The Governors also spend nearly £5,000 each year to update instruments and provide expert tuition in this area.

Extra Teachers

The Governors agreed that more qualified teachers and teaching assistants would help keep class sizes small and provide support for those children who find learning difficult. We now have extra teaching assistants for Y3 and Y4 in Literacy and Maths in the mornings. We have employed 2 extra teachers so that Y5 and Y6 also have an additional Literacy and Maths group each morning.

Pupil Premium

The Governors review the budget each year to provide extra support for any pupils who have been entitled to Free School Meals at any time in the last 6 years. We subsidise Educational Visits, Breakfast Club, School Uniform and PE Kit and provide extra tuition where needed. The Minister for Education has congratulated CJS for our success in helping disadvantaged pupils to achieve well above that of other pupils nationally. (For further details on Pupil Premium, please see the school website.)

Sport Premium

The Governors have ensured that the Sport Premium has been spent wisely to provide new resources for pupils, train staff in PE and provide further opportunities for pupils to participate in sporting activities and enter competitions. The Sport Premium has totalled £10,000 each year for the last 3 years and has now increased to £20,000 each year.

ICT Investment

Despite recent cuts in funding from Government and the Local Authority, the Governors have continued to invest in ICT. This has allowed the school to install a new system for wireless, purchase many new iPads and ensure that other hardware is fit for purpose and keeps pace with ICT technological developments. Last year the Governors agreed to invest £3,000 in VR technology so that there are headsets for all year groups to use to stimulate interest and engagement in learning. From June 2018, the Governors have invested over £30,000 to provide each classroom with a new interactive SMARTboard, including touch screen technology. This has greatly enhanced the teaching and learning at CJS.

Health and Safety

The Governors have installed a new barrier and pedestrian walk way in the car park, to improve the safety of all. The Governors consider all matters of Health and Safety, ensuring that the school received a 100% rating from Derby City at the last Health and Safety Audit.

Refurbishments

The entrance area near the hall has been completely refurbished and the school is now in the first year of a 3 year Painting Plan to refresh the whole school.

School Security

Doors and Fire Exits have been renewed in all Y6 classes, the entrance to the library and Hope/Edale. This has greatly improved the safety and security of this part of the school building.

Asset Management

The Governors oversee the Asset Management Plan, which, over the last 3 years, included installing new boilers in the school, utilising the Children's Centre building which has now returned to the ownership of CJS, extending the school hall and providing additional playground facilities. The hall extension has now been completed and is helping to accommodate over 500 pupils for assemblies and school events.

Library

With the help of the PTFA, the Governors have invested in the refurbishment of the library to encourage all children to love reading. This is a key area of the school vision for the future.

5. Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about the work of the Governing Body at Chellaston Junior School. If you have any further questions about governance, or you are interested in being a governor, please contact Mr James Emery (Headteacher) or Professor Paul Withey (Chair of Governors) via the school office.

If any parent has a concern regarding their child's education or welfare at school, please contact the class teacher, year group leader or Headteacher as appropriate. We aim to work in partnership with parents and resolve any issues to ensure that all children step to success at CJS.