



The Governing Body of Foreland Fields School

Our Mission +++ Our Role +++ Our Commitment

This Governor newsletter is the first publication since 2017. We felt that it was time to review the work of the school and highlight and celebrate our achievements whilst looking to the future and our expectations.

It's been almost three years since we moved to this Newlands Lane site and so much has happened.

The Headteacher, leadership team, teaching staff, administration team, site staff and many others have turned this building into a wonderful environment for our pupils in which they can learn and develop.

We have developed the building and increased our staff and pupil numbers.

The pupils have achieved a great deal of recognition for their talent and skills and have raised the profile of the school.

We, the school Governors, are proud of these achievements and the continuous drive by the Headteacher and school staff to improve the premises and provide an opportunity for pupils to learn, develop and achieve to their full potential.

School Governors

The school Governors are volunteers made up from staff, parents and co-opted professionals from the private, public and voluntary sector. Each serves for a period of up to four years.

Each year the Governors are asked to complete a skills matrix to identify their skills including any new skills developed during the year either in the school, associated with the school, or within their own field of expertise.

The school currently has a full board of Governors who are committed to supporting the school. We work in partnership with all staff to monitor and maintain the school's management and financial affairs.

We believe in:

- Maximising the wellbeing of our pupils
- Raising their self esteem
- Increasing their independence by enriching their skills
- Putting them first!

We believe that our pupils have the right to be educated in a safe and secure environment and the Governing Body takes its responsibility very seriously so that these goals are achieved.

The Governors New Mission Statement:

The Governors of Foreland Fields School will strive to be active participants in the life of the school, monitoring the school's performance and acting as a critical partner in ensuring the best educational experience for the pupils and their parents/carers.

The School Intake

Within the last three years, Foreland Fields School has grown in pupil numbers. We are, however, restricted in the number of pupils we can accommodate.

Referrals for places are unfortunately higher than actual places. The Headteacher is doing his utmost to maintain a high standard of care and attention to the existing pupils and safeguard the environment from becoming 'over crowded'.

For a number of years, there has been successful satellite provision at both Garlinge Primary School and Hartsdown Academy. Consideration may need to be given to developing this strategy for future classes as the school continues to grow.

Ofsted

During 2017 the school received an Ofsted visit that provided us with a good standard rating. This was a positive outcome for the school.

However, the school is constantly developing and improvements are being made on a daily basis.

It is anticipated that we will receive another Ofsted visit within the next 18 months. Ofsted (the Office for Standards in Education) do not need to give more than 24 hours' notice, however, the school is prepared and ready should Ofsted come and inspect.

We are confident that we will continue to meet the 'good' standard and hopefully will reach the 'outstanding' standard under the new arrangements.

Building works

Within the last three years the school has built additional playgrounds for the younger children, funded by money raised through the hard work of our fundraiser.

The two playground developments are a major achievement and the Governors would like to thank everybody for their contributions and involvement. Particular thanks must go to the School Business Manager, Shelley Furlong, who led on both the project building work and the finance management.

The school is now planning to develop the upper school play area.

The Fund Raiser

Within the last three years, we have been successful in appointing fundraisers whose objective is to raise monies for all the projects the school is planning.

Hilary Plowman has been with the school for a year now and is doing a great job making contact with local organisations and writing bids for grants, etc.

Volunteers

The Governors and the school are very appreciative for the support from volunteers coming into the school and there is a number of projects and activities which owe their success to voluntary input.

Volunteers come from all different backgrounds and professions. There is always a need for fundraising support during activities such as the Summer Fair, etc.

If any person, parent or grandparent is interested in helping the school, please contact the office to arrange to meet with the School Business Manager for a chat.

The Foreland Fields Charity

In 2018, the school decided to formulate a new charity called 'The Foreland Fields Charity', whose sole purpose is to oversee the fund raising activities of the school and approve projects with the allocation of monies collected and donated.

The charity is registered with the Charities Commission and has trustees consisting of the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, School Business Manager and Chair of Governors, as well as three co-opted members who have no association with the school.

There are some interesting projects scheduled for the school in the coming months and years and the Headteacher will publish projects and progress through the school newsletters.

The School Sports Field Project

When the school moved to the new Ramsgate premises, Kent County Council offered the school the adjacent field for development.

A proposal was drawn up for the 3.5 acres to develop a sports field with pavilion, horticulture and a forest school. The proposal, which included costs, also suggested offering the use of the sport field to other schools.

In the autumn, Kent County Council finally met with the school to discuss the build and the budget. Although they have agreed to fund the ground work associated with the sports field, the Council have reduced the funding and cannot support the building of the pavilion.

The funding for the construction of the building and the equipment associated with the building will therefore have to be met by the school. This is a considerable amount of money: in the region of £500,000 - £700,000.

The school will need to put a strategic business plan in place to monitor, manage and maintain the field development and fundraising activities which will involve the Foreland Field Charity.

Working with other schools

Foreland Fields School has been actively working with other schools sharing resources, staff and governor training.

We believe that it is important to work alongside others and share and learn from their experiences and developments.

End Note

Hopefully this brief newsletter has provided you with an outline of what we are doing at the school and how the Governors fit in with the day-to-day running of the school and its future developments.

As Chair of Governors, I am willing to answer any question you may have and ask that you either drop a note in to Reception outlining your query or simply email me at:

stevepamphilon@foreland.kent.sch.uk

Steve Pamphilon
Chair of Governors