



## Foreword

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new children and families who have started St Matthew's this year and welcome back to all of you who are returning. The last 18 months has been an extremely difficult time for many, and we have been working closely with the school staff ensuring our children were kept safe and continued to receive class work whilst remote learning to keep them busy and prevent them from missing valuable learning time.

The board of Governors would like to congratulate Mrs PH on her leadership during the pandemic and to all the staff who have had to adapt to new ways of working, but successfully got through it and hopefully school will start to return to a new normality.

This is a new academic year and parents, and staff need to work closely together to help all our children to catch up on their learning and the curriculum.

## Governors Role

As school governors we are responsible for the vision, ethos, and strategic direction of St Matthews Primary School. We work closely with the Head Teacher to ensure effective running of the school. We hold the Head Teacher accountable for all pupil's achievement and progress and for the quality of teaching.

Working towards achieving the school improvement plan is one of our key priorities. We hold the main responsibility for finance in the school and work with the Head Teacher to make tough decisions about balancing resources which is prudent in times of austerity.

We have two committees, Teaching & Learning and Business; each committee meets once every half term and we hold a full governing board meeting each half term.

## Staffing

Welcome to Mr Harris who has joined the St Matthew's staff as a dedicated PE teacher at the start of the term. Many will know him from breakfast club and after school activities, and great to welcome him onboard

## Governor Body

- Mrs M Jenkins (Parent) Chair
- Mrs K Pennicotte-Henrie (Head Teacher)
- Mrs H Betts (Foundation) Vice Chair
- Mrs S Boddington (Foundation)
- Mrs J Johnstone (Foundation)
- Mrs J Knights (Foundation)
- Mrs S Manning (Foundation)
- Mrs M Walker (Foundation)
- Mr D Wood (Foundation)
- Miss C Lee (Staff)
- Miss D Horlock (Parent)
- Mr K McElhatton (Local Authority)
- Rev. A Wood (Ex Officio)
- Mrs C Glancy (Clerk)

All governors undertake external training to help them in their roles and bring back new knowledge to the school. A main part of our role involves undertaking monitoring visits regularly throughout the year and attending school events.

Visits were limited in the last academic year, however this term we have been lucky enough to attend the school and carry out some of the visits in person.

### Governor visits this term

- Senco Update
- Learning Walk – KS1 Geography
- Learning Walk – KS2 History
- Safeguarding Update
- Health & Safety walk

### Policies reviewed this term

- SEND Policy
- Forest School Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- RE Policy
- Positive Behaviour for Learning Policy



### **Parking**

Unfortunately, some adults are continuing to endanger the children with their dangerous parking outside the school. It only takes 5 minutes to walk from the end of Drift Road to the school gate, so we request you park considerately; do not block the yellow road markings by the entrance to the school gates; do not use the main entrance as a “turning circle” or block residents’ driveways / residential roads. The office staff receive numerous complaints from residents of Drift Road about the school parking, as well as from parents who witness dangerous parking.

We need to ensure the safety of our children and parents whilst coming into and out from our school, and request adults arrive earlier and park further along on either side of the school especially now as there is a new pavement all the way. Please help us to keep all children and adults safe and park responsibly.

### **DO**

- Consider the residents of Drift Road
- Consider what time you need to leave home to give ample time to park and walk
- Park along the full length of Drift Road
- Walk to school when possible
- Lift share with friends to reduce the number of cars

### **DON'T**

- Park on yellow or zig-zag road markings
- Double Park
- Stop and “drop off “in the middle of the road
- Turn around in the middle of the road, often mounting pavements when doing so
- Use the main entrance as a turning circle

### **Voluntary Roles**

As governors, we want what is best for our school and provide our time voluntarily. Whilst these roles might not appeal to everyone, we would like to remind you that other voluntary opportunities are available to support our school.

The PTFA are working tirelessly to provide essential funds for the school to help with the purchase of new equipment throughout the school, including the recent contribution towards the much-needed refurbishment at the front of the school.

We would like to thank the PTFA for all their hard work and hope all parents and guardians will continue to support them as they are a vital part of our school.

Before the Spring Term and the return to swimming, we need to update the swimming pool area. Some of the coping stones around the pool have become loose and need to be repaired /replaced. If you have the skills and time to help with this, please contact the office.

### **Governor Vacancies**

Essentially all governors have the same role within the school, however their titles indicate how they are appointed to the governing body. Here at St Matthew’s we have two vacancies we are currently looking to fill.

**Foundation Governor** – an individual whose appointment to the governing board is approved by Portsmouth Diocese, who are responsible for the school.

**Co-opted Governor** - an individual from the community who has the skills and experience which the governing board require, and are appointed by the existing board, following an interview.

Should you feel you have the right attributes to contribute to the Governing Body at St Matthew’s or wish for further details on what the role entails, please contact the Chair of Governor via the school office

### **Comments and Queries**

Governors welcome your comments and suggestions, and if you wish to contact the Chair of Governors or any other members of the Governing body, please contact them directly or via the school office.