

## Letter to parents of Batchley First School children from the members of the school Governing Board

### Who are we?!

We thought we'd let you know a bit about ourselves. You can see us and read about each of us on the school website under 'Meet the Governors'.

We are a group of unpaid volunteers who hold head teachers to account and ensure that schools are meeting their **strategic** objectives. Governors do not manage the **operational** day-to-day functions of a school, but are required to oversee its long-term development.

Legally schools have to have at least seven governors. For schools like ours there are four types of governor:

- **Parent governors:** are governors with children at the school. They are elected onto the governing body by other parents.
- **Staff governors:** the headteacher and deputy headteacher attend governing body meetings. Also there is a representative from the teaching staff.
- **Local authority governors:** are nominated by the local authority but appointed by the governing body.
- **Co-opted governors:** are appointed onto the governing body by the other members because they possess a particular skill which can contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

This time last year we appointed a new headteacher, Mrs Downes. We are very proud of all that Batchley First School has achieved in the past. As governors we are now enjoying working with Mrs Downes as she and the SLT – Senior Leadership Team – plan the school's future.

January 2021

### Dear parents

We hope you had a good Christmas and New Year despite Covid restrictions. With other friends of the school we enjoyed making the Christmas angels – we hope they brought a smile to yours and your children's faces! We are proud and grateful to you, your children and the school staff for coping so well with all the changes the pandemic has made to your children's learning. Thank you!  
**Batchley  
governors**

### What do we do?

We work as a team. We are responsible for making sure the school provides a good quality education for all our children. We do this by working closely with the headteacher and the school staff. See more details below about how we work with the school to create quality opportunities for everyone.

### Why do we do it?

We all care deeply about Batchley First School and want the best for the whole school family – children, parents, staff and the wider community. We are pleased that a recent external review of our governing board recognised that we are ‘passionate, committed and care about the school’.

BUT it’s really important that we, and you as parents, understand what our role is as governors – you never know, you may like to join us on the board as a parent governor when there’s a vacancy!!

We work on the **strategic** direction of the school. We are ‘Eyes on, Hands off’! The headteacher and staff work on the day-to-day **operational** running of the school.

So what’s the difference between strategic and operational?

Here’s a couple of examples:

Head and SLT - operational	Governors - strategic
<b>The School Development Plan</b> is written by the Head and SLT and they present it to the governors.	The governors monitor how the plan is being implemented and check that what we do links to the priorities outlined on the plan.
<b>School Policies</b> - the head and staff write the policies and make sure they are being implemented in school appropriately.	Governors contribute to the strategic direction of many policies, read, check and approve them once they've been written. We also check with SLT how policies have been implemented, and whether they've been successful.

A simple example would be that governors are involved in the approval of the school’s Behaviour Policy but it’s not our role to decide whether football is played on the playground at lunchtime!

### How do we do it?

More about this in the next letter when we’ll tell you about Full Governing Board Meetings, sub-committees, visits and more. Watch this space!

We hope this letter has given you some information that gives you a clearer understanding of our role as governors of Batchley first school where we are all VIPS – VALUED, INSPIRED, PROGRESSING and SECURE

Thank you!

