



## Crowmarsh Gifford C of E Primary School

*Care, Grow, Persevere, Shine*

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents,

At the recent parents evening on 6/3/2024 some of our governors were present to take any questions from you regarding the work of the governing body at CGPS. We had a good response and enjoyed speaking to many of you.

As a governing body we are trying to improve our communications with parents enabling us to enrich your child's journey through the school. Please look on the school website, which we are developing further, to keep yourselves updated on the work of the Governing Body.

As part of our commitment to improve our communication you will see a link below to our parent survey. Our parent survey questions are based on Ofsted Parent View which allows parents to give their views of the school at any time. By asking parents their view senior staff and Governors can gain a useful year on year picture of parents' views which supports school development. Please take the time to give us your feedback.

### **Your voice is important to us.**

Click on the link below to complete the survey it will be open until Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024

<https://forms.office.com/e/fZhMW83XjC>

We have now collated your questions. Many questions were similar so whilst they are not verbatim in some instances we have covered the main topics that you questioned.

### **What Does the Governing Body Do?**

The Governing body has three main duties.

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure that its money is well spent, including the pupil premium.

*"Most state-funded schools in England receive funding through two main funding pots which determines what the money can be spent on – revenue funding and capital funding.*

*Schools can decide how they spend their revenue funding. It is used to pay for the day-to-day running costs of a school, such as teacher pay, support staff pay, energy bills, minor maintenance, and teaching materials.*

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*Capital funding is a separate pot of money used to pay for new school buildings and improvements to the school estate". – Gov.UK*

Governors must oversee and approve the schools budget. Governors have a committee called the 'Resources' committee who are responsible for this. In addition, the Governing Body are responsible for ensuring that the school fulfils its statutory duties. The board is also expected to exercise strategic oversight of all aspects of safeguarding.

Our constitution is made up of :-

- The Headteacher
- Co-opted Governors
- Foundation Governors
- Local Authority Governors
- Parent Governors
- Staff Governor

The Governing Body is made up of a diverse group of people with a varied mixture of skills. It is open to a rich tapestry of debate contributing to our decision making. The full governing body will meet each term. There are also sub committees or project groups who meet in between these main meetings. You will be able to follow these more closely when our webpage is up and running.

We do not get involved in operational issues regarding the everyday running of the school. We can and do highlight any issues we may observe to the Headteacher, who we trust will act accordingly. For example issues around SEE SAW we cannot resolve but we can highlight to the headteacher.

**Most importantly though, the governing body must operate, collectively, in the best interest of pupils.**

### **What is the difference between the Governing Body and the PTA ?**

A PTA is a Parent Teacher Association, an organisation that brings together parents, teachers and children to raise funds and strengthen the school community. Money raised is usually spent on things that the school budget does not cover.

The Governing body are legally responsible for the running of all aspects of the school as outlined earlier. We do not fund raise as this would cannibalize the efforts of the PTA, however we support and participate in PTA activities where possible.

Whilst the roles of the governing board and the PTA are quite distinct both have the same overriding mission in making the school a better place for children to learn.

**Our mission - making the school a better place for children to learn.**

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### **Why doesn't the school look into solar panels on the roof?**

Whilst it is an aspiration to become a more sustainable school, at the moment, this is out of our budget but something we can look into further down the line.

### **What is the role of the church at CGPS ?**

The Governing Body do not get involved in the creation of policies for the Church of England. We do have close local links with our local Church. Please follow the below link for more information

[Crowmarsh Gifford Church of England School - The Church \(crowmarshgiffordprimary.com\)](http://crowmarshgiffordprimary.com)

### **Can you increase extra Curricular activities across all school phases?**

The Governing Body will always support any activities across all phases that have a positive impact to the children. The school is always looking to enhance our club offer and we are particularly interested in hearing from companies that can offer clubs which can be run in classrooms or outdoors as the hall is used every day by our Wrap Around Club.

### **Can we organise a parent led classroom decorate session (possibly for pre-school)-get a few parents together who could bring paint themselves, tidy and fix?**

If there are enough volunteers, we could put this on the next meeting agenda and discuss if this as a possibility.

### **Is there anything (such as furniture or tech items for example) that the school would like as donations from parents? Possibly from office clear outs or donations from local businesses.**

Nothing specific currently, but we are always open to hearing what is on offer.

### **What is your policy on Bullying ?**

You will find the anti-bullying policy on the school website under behaviour policy

<https://www.crowmarshgiffordprimary.com/attachments/download.asp?file=5&type=pdf>

### **Is wrap around care for pre-school possible?**

This is something that we can put on our agenda to review. We would have to ensure there was enough interest in it to make it a financially and operationally viable option for the school.

### **What is so special about CGPS that makes you want to be a governor ?**

*What makes the governing board unique is that we are different individuals bringing our own experience and skill sets with the goal of making the school the best environment for our children's learning. Some of us work or have worked in other schools or other educational settings, some in HR, finance, management etc but the first loyalty of every governor must be to the school. We are there not only to support the head teacher, management, and staff in all they do but to hold them to account and be a 'critical friend'. As a parent governor, I am in a privileged*



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*position of having the opportunity to make a difference for our children now but also children in the future. Our mantra during meetings and discussions is 'is this in the best interests for the children', and if not then we look at how it can be.*

### **.Clare Ahern Parent Governor (Vice Chair)**

*'It is a church school with close links to the local church of St Mary Magdalene. I am a governor to help promote the education, including religious education of the children of the village.'*

### **Linda Parker- Foundation Governor**

*'Post Covid I felt that the children in our society suffered, it simply saddened me. I asked myself how could I make a difference? I could not change the past, but in my own very small way if I could somehow influence the outcome of one child in a positive way I would be happy. Your children will probably never know what the governing body is or what we do (nor do they need to!!!), we work silently in the background sometimes lost within governing statute or financial spreadsheets but we never forget that we are your children's champions – we will make a difference and that is very special.'*

### **Caroline Ibbotson - Co-opted Governor (Chair of Governors)**