

Montalbo School Governor Newsletter

October 2019

Chair's Greeting

Hello. My name is Sarah O'Doherty and I am the Chair of Governors at Montalbo Nursery and Primary School.

Many thanks to those parents who completed and returned the Governor questionnaire that was sent out to you before the summer holidays. As a result of your feedback, the Governors and I would like you to know more about who we are, our role in leading the school and the time we spend in school.

The governor newsletter will be issued ½ termly to keep you up to date with Governor developments at Montalbo Nursery and Primary School.

My email address if you ever need to contact me is s.odoherty400@durhamlearning.net

Governor Role

The role of the governing body is a strategic one with three core functions:

- Setting strategic direction
- Creating robust accountability
- Ensuring best use of financial resources

Governor Responsibilities

Sarah O'Doherty	Chair of Governors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance, Premises & Staffing (Chair)• Curriculum, Standards, Behaviour, and Safety• Appeals (Chair)• Headteachers Performance (Chair)• LAC & Safeguarding (link governor)• E Safety/website & data protection (link governor)
Louise Finlay	Vice Chair of governors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curriculum, Standards, Behaviour, and Safety• Finance, Premises & Staffing• First / Pay Review (Chair)• Pupil Premium (link governor)• Subject Leaders/Curriculum Planning (link governor)
Shaun Thornton	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appeals• Curriculum, Standards, Behaviour, and Safety• Reading (link governor)
Lisa Cole	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headteacher's Performance• Curriculum, Standards, Behaviour, and Safety• First / Pay Review• SEND (link governor)
Richard Patterson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curriculum, Standards, Behaviour, and Safety (Chair)• Finance, premises & staffing• KS2 boys writing (link governor)
Rachel Tweddle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appeals• Finance, Premises & Staffing• Link Governor• SMSC/Equalities (link governor)

Belinda Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum, Standards, Behaviour, and Safety • First / Pay Review • Behaviour, attitude & attendance (link governor)
John Blissett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum, Standards, Behaviour, and Safety • Finance, Premises & Staffing • First / Pay Review • Headteachers Performance • Health & Safety (link governor)
Ted Henderson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appeals
Craig Dunnill – Appointed October 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E Safety/Website

Teaching Staff Governors: Mr Minikin and Mrs Bartoli

Monitoring Visits

SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development): Ms Tweddle visited School on Wednesday 9th October and chatted to pupils during their lunchtime. She was shown the areas where the children eat their lunch and where they play at break times. Pupils described how they respect each other, all play together and learn informally in the garden and railway carriage. She was also treated to an impromptu dance performance from some of the Year 5 pupils and an assembly 'Show Racism the Red Card.'

Mrs Finlay visited School on Friday 18th October and monitored our Pupil Premium funding. The funding is supporting children with complex needs well with 1:1 support. School is using external agencies such as CAMHS and the NHS in order to support pupils with specific needs.

Staff development is working well and being rolled out to others to share best practice and to ensure a whole school approach.

Children are happy in school and excited about their learning. Pupils were keen to share their experiences and spoke knowledgably and confidently about their current work.

Safeguarding is effective, staff are aware of policy and procedures. Going forward we need to ensure the principles of Poverty Proofing the School Day are embedded in school planning to best support pupils.

Strategic Planning

Governors are currently working on a three year strategic plan. This document will set the scene for the School for the medium term future and ensure that governors, staff and pupils are clear on the direction our school is going in.

Sub Committee Meetings

This term the Behaviour, Standards and Curriculum Committee and the Finance Sub Committee met. The Governors also met to begin working on the strategic plan and discuss their own structure.

More information on the Governors can be found at www.montalbo.durham.sch.uk/about-us/our-governing-body/