

# The Governing Body

All schools in England have a Governing Body which is responsible for overseeing many of the strategic decisions of the school. A key role is to act as a 'critical friend': to support, to challenge, to ask questions, ultimately to represent the school community.

The Governing Body works in close partnership with the Headteacher, staff and the Local Authority. Whilst the Headteacher is, of course, responsible for the day to day running of the school, the governors are involved with such things as staffing, curriculum, school buildings and finance. It ensures the school functions well and maintains the proper range of academic and social objectives.

Membership of the Governing Body includes parents, teaching and support staff, representatives from the local community, Local Authority and a Foundation Governor who is appointed by the diocese. The Governing Body meets approximately every 6 weeks; additionally, there are sub-committees which meet more frequently:

- Resources which includes Premises, Finance, Personnel, Health & Safety
- Teaching and Learning which includes the Curriculum and SIAMS
- Nursery Admissions
- Child Protection and Special Educational Needs

The Governing Body has a range of powers and duties laid down by various Education Acts. In the main, these responsibilities relate to:

- Setting targets and promoting high standards of educational achievement
- Setting the strategic framework within which the school operates
- Management of the school's delegated budget
- Ensuring that the curriculum for the school is balanced and broadly based

Governors discharge the above responsibilities, together with many others, through a Governing Body meeting. These formal meetings are supplemented by a series of informal sub committee-meetings dealing with more specific issues. A number of governors also have other responsibilities (see the list of Governors).

Governors adopt, review and monitor a range of policies that govern the operation of the school including Health and Safety, Child Protection, Behaviour, Curriculum and Staff Appraisal

## **Come and see what the governors do.**

Anyone can come and observe at a governor's meeting as long as they have first arranged this with the head teacher.

## **Join In**

All governors to a school's Governing Body must be elected.

If you want to be part of St Leonard's Governing Body please enquire about any vacancies.

Contact **Mrs Jill Cheeseman** the Chair or **Mr Neil Blackwell**, the Headteacher.