

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2019

New Joint Chair of Governors | Headteacher's New Role | Safe Parking

Dear staff, pupils, parents and carers,

My time as a governor at Burbage is coming to an end after 11 years, 5 of which have been as chair of governors.



Burbage Primary School

Building Confidence: Inspiring Achievement

It's been a fantastic experience and I have learnt so much during my time here and have developed a wide range of invaluable skills, friends and memories.

I remember when the post for parent governor came up all those years ago, I hadn't even considered applying with 2 very young children only one of which was in school at the time. A friend approached me and suggested I put my name down, as she thought with me being a stay at home mum who was a qualified teacher I would enjoy, have the time and be good at the role. After some deliberation I put my name forward and then got the call (on my birthday) to say I was now a governor!

I have watched the school change and grow over the time I have been involved and it is a very different place to the school it was when my children joined many years ago. This is in part because education constantly evolves and changes direction and focus, but also each new member of staff that has come to join us brings different qualities and experiences to enhance and shape the school.

These changes have been very positive and when you visit the school you can feel how happy, safe and exciting a place it is to be from the moment you step through the door. The children are all amazing individuals, each with their own strengths and talents and who whenever you visit, show themselves to be considerate, thoughtful and kind. They are a credit to their parents and carers, the incredible staff who help shape them every day, and my fellow governors who give their time and knowledge for free to support the school in every way that they can.

So, what does being a governor mean? Well, you take part in a lot of meetings, there is a lot of training, you read a lot of policies, you plan meetings and write lots of visit reports to show what we do in school. The more exciting part of our role however is the extra things we choose to do and get involved with. Some of the highlights for me have been World Book Day celebration assembly, harvest tea, being able to have lunch and chat with the children (I love getting to try out school dinners again!) and Burbage Has Got Talent where I was one of the judges - although it was highly stressful actually having to help pick a winner!

Over the years I have worked with 3 headteachers, 3 clerks and at least 38 governors (there may be more my memory has been very stretched trying to remember them all!). Every single governor has been different and has enhanced our team in many different ways.

I have only ever missed one meeting in 11 years, a fact of which I am very proud. I have also been grilled by at least 3 Ofsted inspectors and I am really pleased to end my term with our school in such a strong position.

I will miss everyone and wish you all: staff, governors and most importantly the pupils the very best for the future, and feel free to shout if you need help at the summer fair!

Michelle Birch

Joint Chair of Governors

New Chair of Governors - September 2019 by Lisa Edwards and Emma Moore

As Michelle is leaving, we'd like to take this opportunity to introduce our co-chairs of governors who will serve from the start of the next academic year:

Hello – I'm **Lisa Edwards**, and I currently share the chair of governors role here at Burbage with Michelle Birch.

I've been a governor for six and a half years now. I started out as a parent governor and switched to become a co-opted governor a while ago now, which means I'm able to continue as a governor after my children have left the school. I have two boys – the elder is in year seven at Buxton Community School (BCS) and the younger is just about to transition from year six here at Burbage, to join his brother at BCS.

I've been involved in lots of activities throughout my governor role, including amongst other things, chairing the Resource Management Committee and the School Improvement Committee, being both the governor for health & safety and safeguarding lead, setting the school vision, monitoring school improvement plans and supporting recruitment in school. As a governor, all activities are undertaken with a real desire to act in the best interests in the school, its staff and pupils.

Starting in September, I'm really looking forward to working with Emma Moore, who has agreed to share the chair of governors role with me going forwards at Burbage;

Hi – I'm **Emma Moore** and I've been a governor for just over four years now. I also started out as a parent governor and then converted to a co-opted governor role. I have a son in year seven at Buxton Community School (BCS) and a daughter who is currently in year five here at Burbage.

The biggest positive for me about being a governor, is having the chance to get involved in discussions about what's best for the school, whether that be for now or for the future. It is also a great privilege to be invited into school and experience both what happens 'behind the scenes' and also, crucially, in lessons and at other school events.

On a more personal level, it has also been a great opportunity to be involved in board level discussions and gain very valuable experience. Since becoming a governor, I have been involved in recruitment, report writing, setting the school vision, performance

management and giving speeches, amongst lots of other things – and I'm excited to be moving into a new area again, to share the chair of governors role with Lisa from September.

We will be looking for new governors soon - so if you are potentially interested in getting involved, please do get in touch with either of us via the school office to find out more.

Finally, we would both like to say **a huge thank you to Michelle**, who has diligently and brilliantly served the school in the many roles she has undertaken during her eleven years as a Burbage governor; she really has been fantastic!

Associate School Advisor Role

From September 2019, Mr. Tierney will be taking on the role of Associate School Improvement Adviser for Derbyshire Local Authority in addition to his role as our headteacher.

The appointment of Mr. Tierney to this role is an exciting opportunity for Burbage Primary School and an indication of the regard in which our school leadership is held by the Local Authority. Mr. Tierney will support a group of other schools in Derbyshire in the advisory role via a series of visits, meetings and monitoring exercises. The work will ensure our school remains outward-looking and will enable further collaborative links and partnerships to be forged. Access to direct training and updates from Ofsted, the Department for Education and the Local Authority will enable our leadership team to manage continued school improvement from an increasingly well-informed position.

The timings of Mr. Tierney's visits to other schools will be carefully planned around the needs of our own school, with Mrs. Leighton having a reduced teaching timetable to ensure consistent leadership on such days. School will also receive a financial benefit from the arrangement, enabling us to continue to provide further opportunities for the children of our school.

The governors support Mr Tierney's safety concerns regarding parking at the start and end of the school day.



Keep Our Children Safe - Please Park Considerately
