



# **Droxford Junior School Governing Body**

## *Annual Report*

[www.droxfordjunior.co.uk/governors](http://www.droxfordjunior.co.uk/governors)

**October 2023**

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### **1. Chair's Introduction and Overview**

On behalf of all of the Governing Body, a warm welcome to our new students and parents; please let us extend our thanks once more for your continued support of the school and its wider community.

Over the last year, the school has continued to build upon its successes in all aspects of school life. Droxford continues to be a happy school where its pupils thrive. Being part of the wider community and seeing the staff, children and families enjoy everything that Droxford has to offer continues to bring us all great pleasure.

We said farewell to our Chair of Governors, Kate Couldwell and our Deputy Chair, Vicky Hill at the end of last term. They brought a wealth of experience and insight to the Governing Body, and we thank them for their time and wish them all the best for the future. We are all looking forward to the new academic year and continuing our work as Governors to support the staff and retain our focus on Droxford being the best choice for all families in our community.

#### **• Role of the Governing Body - What do Governors do?**

Over the past year we have recruited some new Governors who have brought their time and skill sets to support the school, but we are committed to maintaining a diverse and effective Governing Body and are always looking for new people to join our team. The strength of our board lies on our ability to attract and rely upon members from a wide variety of backgrounds, to share the duties amongst ourselves and be able to make decisions as part of a group. Diversity of perspectives on the board is very welcome. If you would be interested in learning more about the role of a Governor, please do not hesitate to contact us via our Clerk, Miss Madgwick, at [clerk@droxford.hants.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@droxford.hants.sch.uk).

Governors are strategic leaders within schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education. We have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, the performance management of the staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

*The governing body does not:*

- Inspect the school or have involvement in the day-to-day running of the school
- Authorise each item of expenditure
- Decide which pupils will be admitted to the school, or how pupils are taught individual subjects

Each individual governor is a member of the Governing Board and all decisions are the joint responsibility of the board. As Governors, we attend meetings and ask questions, and some of us have special responsibilities assigned to us such as Development and Training or Safeguarding.

We have two main sub-committees, the Resources Committee and the Curriculum Committee, and also a Pay Committee. Each main committee meets once every half term and then these meetings are followed by a full governing body meeting where all governors attend. At these meetings, we discuss and review a range of items including policies, progress and achievements, financial forecasts and attendance data.

In addition, the children and staff see us in school regularly to carry out themed learning walks. On these occasions, we talk to the children and staff and get a greater insight to the day-to-day experience at Droxford. The children always provide wonderful feedback and are great fun to talk to as they are keen to share their thoughts, feelings and memories about school life. Our school visits always have a focus, be it how certain groups are supported, certain subjects are taught, or analysis of progression as a whole across the school. It is incredibly helpful to speak to staff subject leaders on these days as well. We enjoy hearing about the work they do to ensure that the curriculum is broad and well managed, as well as having the opportunity to ask questions and of course thank them for their hard work.

Most governors have a specific area of responsibility and will visit the school to review these areas. We are not qualified to measure or judge the quality of teaching but we do ensure robust processes are in place to do this. Governors are also usually part of any interview panel when recruiting for new staff members.

We attend a range of training courses run by the Local Authority to ensure we have the latest knowledge and skills to carry out our role effectively.

For a full list of Governors and their roles, please see section 6.



Year 5 sailing residential (Summer term)

- **How well is the school doing?**

We remain incredibly proud of our Year 6 children and staff who work so hard to prepare for and undertake the SATs tests each summer. As always, the children responded to the challenge and performed well, showing great determination and resilience. The school achieved well, with scores beyond national averages in reading and maths. These scores are carefully analysed by both staff and Governors and help to inform us all as to any future focus areas as to how best we can support the children, moving forwards.

- **What is the plan for this year?**

Our Strategic development plan for 2023-2024 has the following key priorities which we are working on as a school

- 1.English: Ensure that gaps in writing are identified and addressed with early intervention across the school
- 2.Curriculum: Develop the whole school curriculum further by integrating the creative curriculum collaboration with Winchester University
- 3.Assessment:
  - a) Review and embed SEN trackers for English and Maths
  - b) Across the DJS curriculum (for those children not achieving expected standards) formative AFL strategies are refined in order to close gaps and / or misconceptions are corrected quickly.
- 4.Professional development: Continue to develop subject leaders practice in terms of knowledge, skills and workload

- **Is the school in a sound financial position?**

Positively, the school ended the 2022/23 year-end with a small annual surplus, which was ahead of our initial expectations. We have set a clear budget for the 2023/24 year and this continues to balance our desire to actively

fund the School Improvement Plan and invest in our staff, with a need to ensure that the school finances continue to be managed carefully.

As a Governing Board, we continue to look at the medium-term projections for the school and these all reflect the themes set out last year, i.e. that limited funding from central Government and the need to fund cost of living challenges will make it more challenging to continue to balance our budget. We are very focussed on continuing to ensure that the school is run as efficiently and effectively as possible and are very grateful for all the support that Friends of Droxford School (FODS) and you, as parents, provide.

- **How can you get involved?**

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation for the invaluable contributions you make to enhance the educational experience of our children here at Droxford. Your involvement, dedication, and support are what makes our community truly exceptional.

There are numerous ways in which you can show your support and become actively engaged in the betterment of our school. We are always looking for motivated and innovated people to join both the Governing Body and the Friends of Droxford School (FODS). It is important to note that these opportunities are open to anyone, whether you work full or part-time, so please do not feel that your schedule is a barrier to getting involved.

Here are a few ways you can make a difference:

**a. Your continued support**

We encourage you to participate in the various events organised by the school this year. FODS is in need of parents to lead their events, so please do volunteer if you can. Not only are these events fun and enjoyable, they also play a crucial role in raising much-needed funds for the school. Additionally, we invite you to join us for the school's 'Dig Days' where your involvement helps to maintain our school grounds and learning environment whilst saving thousands of pounds, annually.

**b. Your ideas**

Your ideas and insights are valuable to us. If you have suggestions on how the school can raise funds or if you have observed successful initiatives in other schools, we welcome your input. Your fresh perspectives can help us to innovate and improve.

**c. Your financial support**

Despite being a publicly funded school, Droxford has consistently delivered outstanding results comparable to many local private schools. If you find yourself in a fortunate financial position, you may like to consider contributing a lump sum or a regular donation directly to the school. Past generous donations have allowed us to upgrade our technology, benefitting every child's learning journey.

**d. Your time**

Do you have spare time during the day? Perhaps you could consider volunteering to listen to the children read. Are you passionate about a particular hobby or skill? You could run or assist in running a club, fostering the children's interests and talents. Your time and involvement help us with our costs as well as providing the children with a richer and more diverse learning experience.

Our school community thrives because of everyone's commitment; we create an environment that truly nurtures and supports the children's growth. We understand the demands of modern life but hope that you will be able to find a way to engage that suits your schedule and interests.

Thank you for being an essential part of our school's journey. Your contributions truly make a positive impact on the lives of everyone at Droxford.

Warm regards

Helen Parrott, Chair of the Governing Board

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## **2. Report from the Resources Committee**

The Resources Committee is one of the two sub-committees of the full Governing Board. The Committee meets once every half-term and is responsible for: overseeing the financial running of the school (including budget setting and monitoring); looking after the school's assets and ensuring that sufficient funding is made available to maintain



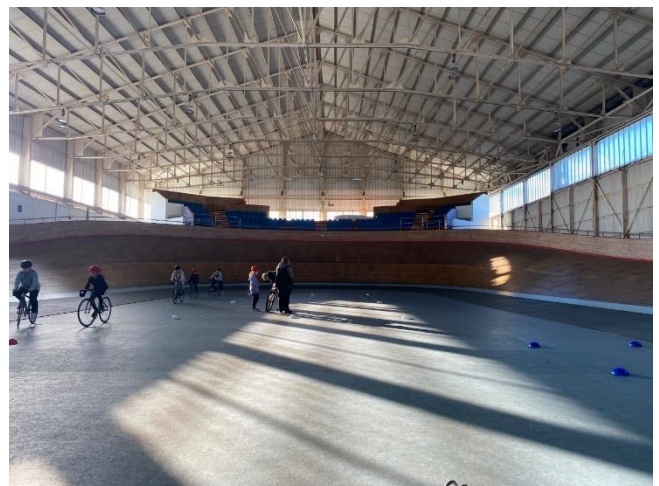


or improve these (including the buildings and grounds); the employment and welfare of staff, and; Health & Safety within the school.

The Resources Committee complements the Curriculum Committee and is focussed on ensuring that the children at Droxford have the right environment, support and materials to develop through their time at the school.

The last year has, as I mentioned previously, seen the school generate a small surplus. This is a big achievement, given the on-going funding challenges and the impact that inflation has had – both on staff pay and, for example, utility costs. These factors are on-going and the projected dip in future school intake (with a corresponding drop in funding) mean that ensuring that we manage our resources as well as possible and get best value will be vital over the next year and into the future.

However, in spite of the challenges, there have been some really good steps forward during the year. As was noted previously, the South Downs National Park grant was used to build a permanent bespoke wooden gazebo in summer 2022. This is an important part of the school's plan to encourage outdoor learning. The next phase of the wider Landscape Strategy Plan commenced at the end of the year and I look forward to reporting on this next year.



In terms of some of the more major investments made during the year, the school has upgraded some of its major IT servers, as part of our long-term plan to ensure that the children have access to the appropriate computer resources. This will likely be the last time we invest in servers, as part of an expected transition to cloud-based school systems. In addition, we are actively looking at how we can invest in the classroom environment and more energy efficient solutions and, as part of this, completed the upgrade of the ceiling tiles and the introduction of LED lights in Droxford and Hambledon Learning Bases.

We undertook the annual staff survey at the end of the Summer term in 2022 and fed the results back to the team in the Autumn term. As part of this we committed to make some clear changes and these have been implemented. Understanding how all the staff feel about working at Droxford is a really important part of the Committee's responsibility: we want to ensure we understand what they need to make things better and improve what we can

deliver for the children. We have run the 2022-23 survey and will be feeding back the results (and actions) in the next term.

Finally, I think it's really important to note all the support that the school receives. FODS do a huge amount to raise money for the school and this is all used to support our children and their learning opportunities at school. The weather was not quite perfect at the Summer BBQ but the re-introduction of alcohol sales definitely helped limit the impact of the late evening rain! Thanks to everyone at FODS who helped manage this and the other events through the year.

In terms of the staff, it has been fantastic for me to get to know the senior team at the school over the course of the last year. Mr Dampier has his team work incredibly hard and are completely committed to ensuring that all the children have access to the best learning opportunities that we can give them. Thanks to all of the staff for the work they do.

Lastly, from me, it was a real shame that Mr Vardy, our former caretaker moved on during the year. He was incredibly diligent and did a great job in looking after the school. And special thanks to Vicky Hill, my predecessor, who did a fantastic job in looking after the school's finances and guiding it through covid with Mr Dampier and his team.

I hope you've all had a lovely summer and have a very happy and successful year at Droxford in the year ahead.

Christopher Woodgate, Vice Chair of the Governing Board and Chair of the Resources Committee



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### 3. Report from the Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee meet once a term, in school, with a pre agreed agenda linked to the school's priorities, to monitor and observe what is happening in school. Some of the members of the committee have Educational backgrounds, others are members because of their interest in the school's curriculum.

Our visits provide an invaluable opportunity to see the children and adults working effectively leading to exciting outcomes. We enjoy talking to groups of children, subject leaders and class teachers about what has been happening; what is happening and what will happen in the future based on the learning. Governors find out more from the children when they meet with the School Council, the Eco Committee, Cyber Ambassadors, Wilder Committee, School Sports Organising Crew and Play leaders.

Any member of the governing body can join the meetings on the day and it is a great way to observe the rhythms of the school day – not just the great learning but also the orderly behaviour; the many options for play at morning break and lunchtimes and finding out about the excellent safeguarding culture in the school.

The Curriculum Committee also regularly reviews data to monitor progress and outcomes for all pupils and groups of pupils. The end of KS 2 SATs data was extremely again this academic year – well above county and national averages. All staff have worked hard to ensure that any gaps that formed in the children's learning during the period of remote learning were addressed upon their return.

We also have responsibility for the school website. This is a hugely useful online resource and we ensure it meets all statutory requirements as well as meeting the needs of all stakeholders.



All the members of the Curriculum Committee would like to thank all the staff who gave their time to work with the governors over the year.

Helen Parrott (Outgoing) Chair of the Curriculum Committee

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#### **4. Parent Survey: Results and Next Steps**

The school remains an extremely positive choice for parents and their children. Our strong reputation reaches far and wide and we take pride in this fact. We work hard to ensure children gain the best education they could possibly have at our school.

Parents are surveyed for responses based on Ofsted questionnaires at the end of each academic year. We use the findings to engage further with our parents in developing our school and use suggestions to improve our practice in a reflective, strategic way.

Matthew Dampier

Headteacher

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#### **5. Frequently Asked Questions**

- **How do I find out more about the role of governors?**

For more information on the role and responsibility of a governing body and how to apply to be a governor, visit the HCC website: [\*Hampshire County Council - What Governors Do.\*](#)

- **How do I find out more about becoming a governor and how to apply?**

Please visit the HCC website: [\*Hampshire County Council: Becoming A Governor\*](#)

Our Chair of Governors would welcome the opportunity to discuss the role in more detail and any of the other governors will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

- **How can I find out more about the school policies?**

All relevant policies are available to download from the school website: [\*www.droxfordjunior.co.uk/policies/\*](http://www.droxfordjunior.co.uk/policies/)

If anything is not clear, or more information is required, please contact the School Office.

- **Can I contact governors directly to discuss matters about my child's education?**

Your child's class teacher would be your first point of contact, as they have the best first-hand knowledge and expertise to deal with any queries. If appropriate the Headteacher, Matthew Dampier, may also be involved.

Any other matters can be dealt with by following the procedures and policies detailed on the website: [\*www.droxfordjunior.co.uk/policies/\*](http://www.droxfordjunior.co.uk/policies/)

- **Do parent governors act as a representative for all parents?**

Parent governors provide a parent's perspective. However, their role is not to act as a representative for other parents.

- **How can I give feedback to governors?**

Participating in any surveys is an excellent way to provide structured feedback and allows the governing body to incorporate this feedback into future strategic plans. Contact can also be made via the school office, or you can email our Clerk, Miss Madgwick at [\*\*clerk@droxford.hants.sch.uk\*\*](mailto:clerk@droxford.hants.sch.uk).

## 6. Members of the Governing Body 2023/2024

No.	Name	Committee	Role(s)	Governor Type
1	Helen Parrott	Curriculum	Chair of the Governing Board Designated Child Protection/ Safeguarding Designated Safer Recruitment	Co-opted Governor
2	Christopher Woodgate	Resources/Pay	Co-Vice Chair of the Governing Board Chair of the Resources Committee Designated Health & Safety Headteacher Performance Management	Co-opted Governor
3	June Kershaw	Resources/Pay	Co-Vice Chair of the Governing Board Designated SEN	Co-opted Governor
4	Catherine Eldred	Curriculum/Pay	Chair of the Curriculum Committee Designated Development and Training Headteacher Performance Management	Local Authority Governor
5	Matthew Dampier	Resources		Headteacher
6	Melanie Tibbs	Resources	Designated Pupil Premium Headteacher Performance Management	Parent Governor
7	Sarah Emms	Curriculum		Parent Governor
8	Diane Shepherd	Resources		Co-opted Governor
9	Jennifer Smith	Curriculum		Staff Governor
10	Vacancy for a Co-opted Governor			
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12	Vacancy for a Co-opted Governor			

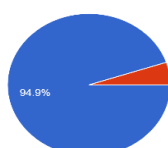
## 7. Parent Survey: Detailed Results – 117 replies

Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
My child is happy at this school.	60.7%	35.9%	0.9%	1.7%	0.9%
My child feels safe at this school.	76.9%	20.5%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
The school endeavours to make sure its pupils are well behaved.	60.7%	35%	2.6%	1.7%	0%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	49.6%	47%	1.7%	0%	1.7%
If your child has special educational needs, the school give the support they need to succeed.	29%	24.2%	3.2%	4.8%	38.7%
The school has high expectations for my child.	41.9%	42.7%	5.1%	1%	9.4%
My child does well at this school.	51.3%	41.9%	2.6%	1.7%	2.6%
The school lets me know how my child is doing (including all types of reports, next steps and targets)	50.4%	40.2%	6.8%	0%	2.6%
School communication is timely and effective	44.9%	42.9%	10.2%	0%	2%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	56.4%	41%	1.7%	0%	0.9%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	57.3%	40.2%	2.6%	0%	0%
The school supports my child's wider personal development and wellbeing.	53%	36.8%	4.3%	0.9%	5.1%

Question	No Concerns	Yes	No
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	33.3%	59.8%	6.8%

Question	Child has not been bullied	Yes	No
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying and efficiently	82.1%	13.7%	4.3%

I would recommend this school to another parent.  
117 responses



● Yes  
● No





**Vision: Equipping our children with the knowledge and skills to navigate life successfully.**