



Selsted Governor Newsletter – Jan 2018

Welcome to the Governor newsletter.

What a year!

Last academic year ended on a real high for the Governors and Staff of Selsted and we don't blow our own trumpet often enough.

Although the last few years have seen significant change for us, with staff taking their planned (and well deserved) retirements, the leadership of the school has risen to the challenge, recruiting some passionate and dedicated new members of staff as well as striving to improve the environment on a shoestring budget.

We had a successful Ofsted inspection, which not only recognised how well we know our school but how ambitious we are for the next stage of our journey towards Outstanding.

We finally have the new field so that the children can have better sports and outdoor learning facilities and we plan to further investigate ways to offer Forest School experiences.

Our end of year results were definitely a confirmation and celebration of the time and effort everyone in the school has invested in the children's learning – we now rank as the **5th best primary school** in the Shephway area.

This year promises to be just as exciting!

Reverend David Adlington

As some of you will know, the Reverend David Adlington passed away recently.

David was a Governor at Selsted for many years until a parish move necessitated his resignation in 2016 and his commitment and calm resolve was sorely missed.

On behalf of the school, we have sent our condolences to his widow and will be attending his memorial service.

Governor Vacancy

One of our co-opted Governors, Mr P Gane, who has very generously given us his financial and local governance expertise for the last 2 years, has decided to step down due to work commitments.

Although he will maintain links with the school, this leaves us with a vacancy for a full, Co-opted Governor with particular skills in finance.

If you have a friend or relative who would be interested in becoming a governor of Selsted school. Please ask them to contact me via the school office for an informal chat.

Structure of the FGB

Previous newsletters have detailed what governors 'do' and what they 'don't do' – this time, I wanted to share with you the structure of the Selsted Governing Board and what areas we concentrate on.

We are made up of 10 voluntary governors-

2 Ex Officio Governors (the Headteacher and one from the Church)

1 Staff Governor (elected by staff)

2 Parent Governors (elected by the parent community)

1 Local Authority Governor (appointed by the Local Authority)

1 Foundation Governor from the local parish

3 Co-opted Governors (usually from the community and appointed by the board itself)

Every governor is appointed because of the skills and expertise they can offer and we undertake regular skills audits so that we know we have the right mix of people.

We hold 6 full governing board meetings per year (1 per term) and have 2 committees (which also meet once a term) – 'Finance and Resource' and 'Learning and Development' and each governor sits on one or both of these. We are also part of staff teams which are aligned with areas of the School Improvement Plan and meet termly for this. On top of this, many of us hold roles with specific focus, such as Chair, Vice-Chair, Safeguarding or Training and Development Governor. We equally look for evidence of good learning either in subject areas (Maths, English, and Outdoor Learning) or for certain groups (Early Years or Disadvantaged pupils) and carry out visits into school so that we can capture all that evidence.

We are constantly learning and asking ourselves how we can better support our school and the role is made a lot more fun when you have such a dedicated staff and such amazing children.

Jen Ibbetson-Revell – Chair of Governors