



AUTUMN TERM

2023

VACANCY NOTICE

We currently have a vacancy on the governing body for a co-opted governor.

Co-opted Governors are selected and appointed by the Governing Body with a view to widening the range of expertise and experience, to the benefit of the school.

Anyone aged over 18 can be a governor and you do not need to be a parent. There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system, just the necessary skills, character and some time to contribute. Training is provided to help governors develop their skills and knowledge.

For further information please see the school website or contact the Chair of Governors, Alex Hutchison, directly or c/o the School Office.



GOVERNOR UPDATE

For parents, carers, and the school community

Welcome to our Autumn term newsletter!

A warm welcome to all the children and families that have joined the school this academic year. The Governing Body produces a termly newsletter to keep you informed about what we've been doing and how we are supporting the school leadership team to provide outstanding learning opportunities at Park Gate Primary School.

Governing body membership

The new school year has brought a few changes to the Governing Body. Alex Hutchison has taken over the role of Chair from Val Morgan, who will support him as Vice Chair. Jason Beckhurst is now on board as a parent governor (who you can learn a little bit more about later), and Helen Wall has taken over the role as Staff Governor. Having a wide variety of views, skills and expertise allow the Governing Body to robustly support and challenge the school. If you're interested in a new challenge, or would like to learn more, please see our recruitment notice on the left.

School strategic plan

Central to the improvement of our school is the vision and aims. The school strategic plan is the vehicle used to translate this vision into reality. It is the key working document and the reference point for all the improvements and developments that are desired and need to make within the school.

2023 marks the start of a new strategic plan for the school. Following on from the conclusions of the recent Ofsted inspection, the school is committed to maintaining the excellent progress achieved over the past few years while remaining ambitious and working to continuously improve the learning experience of those at Park Gate.

The school will continue to ensure we maintain momentum in reading, writing, maths as well as proving a rich and varied curriculum. The school's areas of focus for the next three years include (and is not limited to!):

Community

Encouraging and developing a sense of belonging for all the members of the Park Gate School Community through greater opportunities and meaningful involvement, promoting trust, resilience, and kindness.

Environment and outdoor learning

Creating imaginative and aspirational school grounds as an educational resource and a place to support wellbeing, raising children's awareness of how they can become responsible stewards of their environment and of the planet.

Technology

Embracing the opportunities offered by revolutionary new technologies to enhance the curriculum and appreciate the impact on everyday life.

Throughout the year, Governors perform monitoring visits to assess progress against the strategic plan. We use this information to assess the school's progress and evaluate the impact it has on the learning outcomes for the children.



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DID YOU KNOW?

Governors have a strong focus on three core strategic function:

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



School finance

Balancing the budget is becoming an increasingly daunting task and remains a challenge for all schools nationwide. Despite increased funding announced in the 2022 autumn budget, there are still significant concerns about funding levels and the impact of underfunding of schools. Following a substantial rise over the 2000s, total school spending per pupil fell by 8.5% in real terms in England between 2009–10 and 2019–20. This only includes day-to-day or current school spending per pupil, with larger cuts in school capital spending. This fall in school spending per pupil represents the largest and most sustained cut in school spending per pupil in England in at least 40 years, and probably a lot longer.

The governing body works closely with the leadership team to oversee the financial performance of the school. We have just completed our November budget review and a priority has been to continue to keep the levels of staffing in place across the school. The leadership team have now taken on some teaching responsibilities (covering some of the planning, preparation, and assessment time for teachers) to support the school with the budget. We continue to look for funding streams by proactively applying for grants and working with local organisations. We are so grateful to the Swanwick Lions who are supporting our School Improvement Priority of outdoor learning by donating and erecting a polytunnel in the school grounds for pupils to begin growing produce.

In addition to this, the governing body continues to appreciate the work of the Friends of Park Gate. It is brilliant to see so many events being organised, both for the enjoyment of the children, but also as a much-needed revenue stream for the school. Money has recently been spent on a new sound system for the school hall, and plans are being made to replace outdoor play equipment once sufficient funds have been raised. Thank you again to all those that volunteer and donate – it really makes a difference.

MEET THE GOVERNOR

Hi all, I'm Jason. Park Gate is already a huge part of my life as I have a son in year 6, a daughter in year 2 and my wife is a Teaching Assistant in the school!

Since joining as a Parent Governor in September, I have attended 2 governing body meetings, visited the school, looking specifically at Health & Safety, had a number of interactions with staff members and other governors, and been lucky enough to help out on a school trip to Butser Ancient Farm. In all of these interactions, the thing that has stood out to me is the passion and dedication of every single person to make the school a fantastic, and ever-improving, place for our children to be.

As part of the governing body, I want to use my skills and experience (leadership, transformation & consulting) to support and challenge the school to build on the great work that already exists today.





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ATTENTION EMPLOYEES & EMPLOYERS!

Do you work for an employer that would be able to help the school?

Many employers have schemes for grants, bursaries, or match-funding for community projects, including schools.

The school would be very interested in forming partnerships with local business and employers, with an aim to fund exciting capital projects such as our recent early years outdoor area.

If you think you can help, then please contact the school office in the first instance.



YOUR GOVERNORS



Alex Hutchison
Chair (LA Governor)



Val Morgan
Vice Chair (Co-opted)



Lindsay McCarthy
Headteacher



Marianne Pope
(Co-opted)



Anna Greenfield
(Co-opted)



Helen Wall
(Staff)



Caroline Chalmers
(Parent)



Sarah Allen
(Co-opted)



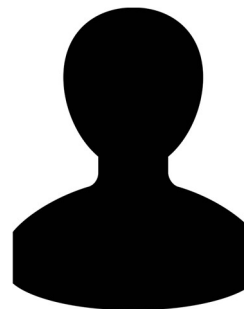
Pete Matheson
(Co-opted)



Stephenie Linham
(Co-opted)



Jason Beckhurst
(Parent)



Vacancy
(Co-opted)

How to get in touch

As before, informal comments or queries from parents are welcomed! Please feel free to speak to us if you see us on the playground or around the school at events.

Alternatively, we can be contacted by emailing the school office, noting 'For the attention of the Governors' or by leaving a letter / message with contact details at the school office. We'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Thanks for reading and we hope you have an enjoyable festive season. Look out for our next update – Spring 2024.

Park Gate Primary School Governing Body