



## From the Chair

I have recently reflected on my journey starting out as a School Governor and moving on as Chair. I started over 7 years ago, with one child in reception and no children in Junior school. I had the desire to learn about the education system in the UK and also contribute to the local community.

What I have learned along the way has far exceeded my expectations of the role and has been an extremely rewarding experience. As I learn more about other schools at training and external meetings, I have most importantly realised **how lucky we are to have our children attend CHJS**. A few other things I have learned along the way:

- **Being a Teacher is hard work**. At our school, sometimes we finish our governors meetings at 10pm and teachers are still in the school working, planning or marking.
- **At CHJS, no child is 'lost in the system'**. The amount of monitoring, checking, support and knowledge on each child, and then actions the staff plan for each child is really detailed. The governors never see this detail by child, only anonymised versions to validate that these processes are in place.
- The school really does focus on children having a **balanced school experience** and being prepared for the next stage of the educational journey. It is never all about academic or sporting achievements, but ensuring that clubs are varied and many at no cost. We also have residential trips, which all are encouraged to attend. We ensure that children get exposed to a wide range of class materials and IT equipment.
- We are so lucky to be **financially secure**. A number of schools are considering drastic measures in order to balance their budget. The CHJS budget has been carefully managed so that your child gets the best resources and support during their time at the school.
- The children have **many opportunities to shine** and be celebrated by their teachers and peers. They are appreciated as individuals at CHJS.

Rondi Allan

## Who are the Governors

We are a diverse group of volunteers who form part of the leadership of the school. Each Governor has a role on our governing body and we conduct skills audits to ensure we have the right people around the table to support and lead our school. If you would like to find out more about being a Governor, at our school or another, this is a very useful website : <https://www.inspiringgovernance.org/>

Rondi Allan	Chair of Governors/ Chair of Personnel	Co-opted
Robert Donald	Resource committee	Local Authority
Farhana Chaudhury	Standards and Achievements	Parent Governor
Carole Connelly	Clerk	
Justine Elbourne-Cload	Head Teacher	
Lucy Pegg	Standards and Achievements	Co-opted
Marie-Claire Sherman	Personnel	Co-opted
Sohan Soral	Resources	Co-opted
Alistair Stewart	Chair of Resources	Co-opted
Matt Tavender	Standards and Achievements	Staff Governor
Zoe Westgarth	Vice Chair / Chair of Standards and Achievements	Parent Governor
Lianne Weidman	Personnel	Co-opted

## Wellbeing

As you are aware, Wellbeing for both children and Teachers has been in the press recently. This is something we are also heavily focused on as a Governing Body. We believe it is a prerequisite for a healthy and constructive learning environment.



## Writing as a focus

The school has undertaken a cross curriculum initiative for writing in the 2018/9 Academic Year. We have writing as one of our improvement priorities. The school has approached this in a number of different ways. 'Talk for writing' has been introduced for creative writing for both depth and breath, based on the principle that it is often easier to talk creatively as a step before writing creatively. Punctuation and Grammar is also being focussed on, with a view to getting all students ready for Secondary school. Staff have been supported with additional Training.

## Parental Involvement at Cunningham Hill

In a recent survey conducted by Parentkind, it found that **Positive Partnerships** between schools and parents are vital, if every child is to thrive and reach their potential. Parent Participation can lead to better pupil attendance and Attainment, as well as a positive learning community.

We would like to take this opportunity to **wholeheartedly thank all the parents** that do support us, with their time, effort and energy (or even cake baking)! Currently we have very active PTA members, parents who read with children during the day, parent Governors, parents who come in to inspire our children about their jobs and even some parents who completed paving work- saving the school a considerable amount of money.

As a governing body we would like to continue to **encourage more parents** to be involved in our school. While we always need more help on all the topics above. We also encourage attendance at school events, meetings and forums. Any parents with access to a company which has charitable schemes would also be interesting to us.

The staff at the school are also available to discuss your child, they can usually be available at the end of the school day or by appointment. We would really like to encourage you to mention to them, any of **the positive learning or school experiences** your children have. I'm sure it would make their day to know how they have enthused your child at school!

We would also like to **hear from you**. Some different ways :

- An important survey for us is Parent View which is the Ofsted Survey which takes less than 5 minutes to complete, <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>
- The Governors will be issuing our annual Parents school survey in the summer term.
- The Heads-Up report often has an opportunity for comments.
- Governors also can be confidentially contacted via the Email address below.