

Our Governors

We are a group of local residents and parents of the school who have an interest in the school as an important local institution.

Our aim is to work with the staff in helping each child to achieve his or her full potential within a happy and supportive environment.

Our Governing Body (GB) works together with the Head and staff to oversee all aspects of school life including staffing, finance, premises, curriculum, compliance with legislation and policy, forward planning and, together with our Local Authority advisor, to monitor the standards of achievement of our children.

Sytchampton is a Voluntary Aided school, supported by the Lloyds Educational Foundation – a local charitable organisation that also supports Ombersley First School.

Who are our Governors?

Dr Pinky Jain	Chair of Governors, Local Authority Governor
Mr Matt Harris	Vice Chair, Parent Governor
Mrs Amanda Richards	Headteacher
Mr Bill Webster	Teaching Governor
Vacancy	Lloyds Foundation Governor
Mr Paul Adams	Lloyds Foundation Governor
Mrs Laura Lawson	Lloyds Foundation Governor
Dr Baylon Kamalarajan	Lloyds Foundation Governor
Mr Paul Marshall	Lloyds Foundation Governor
Mr David Bishop	Lloyds Foundation Governor
Mrs Alison Elwell-Thomas	Lloyds Foundation Governor
Vacancy	Parent Governor
Mrs Jenny Bishop	Associate Member
Mrs Jane Lawson	Clerk to Governors

What is the role of a Governor?

Governors are a group of volunteers who include parents, staff and members of the local community who either have a connection with the school or particular skills that are useful for the running of the school.

Being a governor takes quite a lot of time but our close association with the school is incredibly rewarding, especially when we are involved with the implementation of important changes.

Our main role is to promote ongoing improvements in standards throughout the school. We work with the Headteacher and staff to plan the school's long term direction and to evaluate progress. We help to set the school's aims and values. Many of our responsibilities carry a statutory requirement. This means that we are obliged by law to do things such as agree the annual budget and to conform with appropriate training with respect to issues such as safeguarding.

Our role is sometimes described as 'critical friend'. This does not mean that we are here to criticise the Head or the school. Instead, we try to ask useful questions to gain a greater understanding of the school and to foster an ethos of continual improvement.

Most of us have not been a school governor prior to our appointment but new governors are given a Handbook that details the expectation of their role and a mentor to help them in their early days. There is a programme or evening courses on offer for all governors, both enabling us to keep up to date in our chosen areas of interest and to introduce new governors to their role. We encourage all of our governors to participate in these.

How do we operate?

The GB divides into two main committees. The membership depends on the interests and skills of the individuals.

The **Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee** oversees the school's finances, looks after the premises and agrees staffing arrangements and salaries. This committee meets twice each term.

Members of this are: Paul Marshall (Chair), Amanda Richards, Paul Adams, Laura Lawson and Matt Harris

The committee discusses the school's finances and is instrumental in agreeing how future income is to be deployed.

The **Teaching and Learning Committee** oversees the quality of our teaching and learning within the school. Their role is to contribute to providing a high standard of education for our children here at Sytchampton. The Committee is particularly interested in standards achieved by the children, both with respect to the progress or individual pupils and overall standards achieved, compared to similar schools nationwide. The committee members question the Head in order to verify the results presented to the committee.

Member of this committee are: David Bishop (Chair), Amanda Richards, Bill Webster, Baylon Kamalarajan, Pinky Jain, Alison Elwell-Thomas

Individual governors have particular responsibilities for different areas within the school, according to their special interests.

Some of these are:

Baylon Kamalarajan	Safeguarding
Vacancy	SEND & LAC
Alison Elwell-Thomas	English/History/Geography
Pinky Jain	Maths
Paul Marshall	Health & Safety
David Bishop	Science/PE
Laura Lawson	Early Years, Behaviour & Safety
Bill Webster	Mental Health & Well-being

These governors visit the school at appropriate times to check on their own areas of interest and to monitor specific areas of progress related to the agreed School Development Plan. They then report their findings to the GB.

How often do we meet?

The full Governing Body meets once per term, although there are sometimes extra meetings convened when necessary.

The Teaching and Learning committee also meets once per term. The Finance Premises and Personnel committee meets twice per term. There are also occasional meetings of the Steering Committee and Salaries Committee.

How do you contact us?

Members of the Governing Body can be contacted via the school office or parent members can be contacted on the playground.

Dr Pinky Jain
Chair of Governors