

It’s been a very busy year for the governing body at Linton Primary School. After 12 years as a governor and Chair of the Performance and Standards committee, I stepped up to the position of Chair of governors. My aim has been to both support and challenge Mrs Hollis in her drive to improve the ‘Linton’ experience for our children.

Within our governing body we operate two distinct committees: Our Resources committee look at budgets, staffing, buildings and other resources, prioritising to best meet the needs of our children. Chair of the Resources committee is Jean Walden, who joined our governing body on the same day as I did. As a former headteacher Jean has a strong background in education. In October we welcomed Adam Windle as a parent governor on this committee. Adam has completed induction training and carried out visits to ‘get to know’ the school and see his link subject, sport, in action.

Our Performance and Standards committee look at the academic achievement of our children and what is being done to improve this, whilst maintaining an enjoyable, welcoming and nurturing environment that our families can be proud of. Chair of this committee is Claire Harmsworth. Joe Kenney also joined this committee as a co-opted governor in March and is undergoing his induction training. It’s always exciting to welcome new people.

Each governor chooses which committee their skill set is most closely matched to and attends a half-termly meeting with that committee. Following committees, we all come together as a whole board to carry out our other duties that are not directly related to performance, standards or resources, to oversee items which cannot be delegated from full board responsibility and to ensure that all governors are aware of the work of each committee.

During this academic year governors have:

- Approved a change in school timings to ensure we meet new legislation.
- Continually monitored safeguarding, data protection and health & safety within school.
- Monitored the curriculum, both by questioning and visiting school to see the curriculum in action.
- Overseen the update and evaluation of the ongoing ‘school improvement plan’, ensuring priorities are appropriately identified.
- Checked that the school’s self-evaluation is robust and accurately represents the ‘Linton’ experience.
- Reviewed policies and procedures, many of which can be found on the school website.
- Checked the attendance of pupils and ensured appropriate communication of attendance levels to all families.
- Surveyed parents / carers and staff to understand their perspective of our school and developed plans to improve our weaker areas.

- Monitored the overall budget
- Ensured funding streams with specific purpose are appropriately allocated (eg Sports Premium, Pupil Premium, SEND funding...), evaluating the impact of these spends on our children.
- Overseen premises improvements.
- Examined and approved staff structure for the coming year
- Completed training modules with the NGA to aid our own CPD and in reaction to situations arising within school.

This list is not exhaustive and gives a flavour of the wide range of areas we're involved in as governors. It is a rewarding role but can be challenging at times. I would like to thank the whole board for their support this year. Unfortunately, due to family circumstances and work commitments I don't feel I can continue to execute the 'Chair' role to the standard I would like to, and I have therefore stepped down. I will, however, remain as a governor and a member of the performance and standards committee.

We have also said goodbye to our former Chair, Anthony Kitchen, alongside Daniel Scott, Sarah Smith and Jay Hawkins over the course of this year. Each one has brought their own perspective and contribution to the board and each one will be missed. The role of the governor is a voluntary one and as a board we need a wide range of skills. Our governors come from a variety of backgrounds and careers to ensure some level of diversity – however, this can always be improved and we're happy to receive applications from prospective governors who feel they could diversify our board further. Our current structure and attendance can be seen on the school website. We have vacancies for a staff governor (elected), a parent governor (elected) and two co-opted governors. Applications are invited for any of these positions.

Following my decision to stand down, the board have selected Liz Merrick as Chair for the coming year. Many will know Liz well as a former teacher at Linton School and I hope she will be offered the same level of support and encouragement shown to me.

Finally I would like to thank Mrs Hollis and every member of staff within school for their hard work and passion in delivering the very best for our 'Lintonians' over the past year– I'm very proud of our school and of each one of you.

Best wishes for the coming year,  
Sharon Baker  
Chair of Governors 2023/24