



Nikki Scully-Crane,
the new Chair of Governors

Welcome to the first Governors Newsletter!

As well as the new monthly School Newsletters, I will be sending out periodical Governor Newsletters to help keep you in the loop regarding what the Governor team are doing.

As a parent of a Blackfordby School child myself, I was elected as a Parent Governor and have since been made the Chair of Governors. I am very proud to work with the Blackfordby School team, in all its guises - whether that be school staff, Governors or parents. It is the combination of all these teams around the children at the school that makes things work well.

It is the ethos of the school that attracted me to it as a parent, as well as its small size and Christian nature. After a very long history of stability with our previous Head Teacher we are now in a time of flux, with Mrs Sue Savage as Interim Head Teacher and many changes being made.

I am excited about these changes and being a part of them, for the good of the children of the village and surrounds. The same ethos that was so evident when I chose Blackfordby St Margaret's for my child is still the mainstay of the school, to the benefit of all the children.

Head Teacher News

With this in mind, **I am very pleased to tell you** that Mrs Savage, with the support of Albert Village Governors, has agreed to remain with us at Blackfordby for the rest of this academic year, thus providing both expertise and stability whilst we recruit a new permanent Head Teacher for September 2017.

Website Update

Mrs Savage and I are very keen to ensure that the Parent Voice is heard and as such have created a brand new part of the website dedicated purely to this purpose. Open communication between home and school is essential and is something I actively promote; it helps to stop little niggles becoming big issues. Please do go to **www.blackfordbyschool.org** and have a look at the changes that have been made to make the website more user-friendly, informative and easier to communicate with School through – we welcome your feedback.

I am to be found in the playground every day but I can also be contacted via the Comment Section of the Parent Voice section of the website or via email using nscullycrane@blackfordby.leics.sch.uk

Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support, Nikki Scully-Crane, Chair of Governors.

Q. Who are we?

A. We represent all the stakeholders in the school. The Head Teacher is a Governor, and so are representatives of the teaching and non-teaching staff. As a church school, we have a majority of Foundation Governors, appointed on the recommendation of our vicar. The Local Authority appoints one and the parents of children in the school appoint two Governors. The Chair of Governors is voted in by the Governors.



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Q. What do we do?

A. Essentially, the Governors are responsible for overseeing the running of the school. There are **three core strategic functions of the Governing Body**: * Ensuring clarity of our School vision, ethos and strategic direction; * Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the School and its pupils, and the performance management of its staff; and * Overseeing the financial management of the School – to make sure our money is properly and well spent.

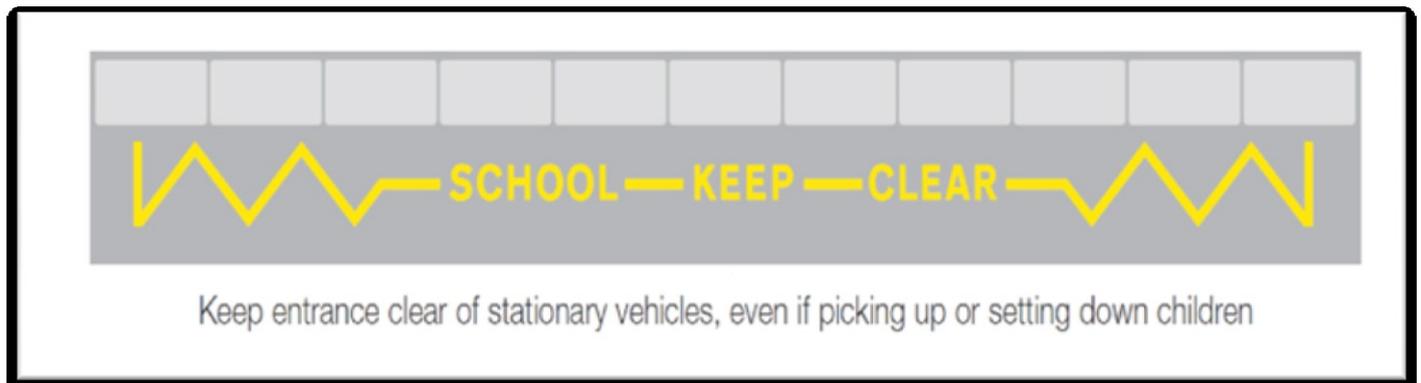


Q. How do we manage the school?

A. It is our job to support and challenge the Head Teacher and professional staff of the school so that we reach our agreed objectives. We do this by taking responsibility for shadowing various aspects of the curriculum and the life of the school. We participate in specialist training to assist us in fulfilling these roles. More about who we are and what we do can be found on the About Us: Governors section of the website.

Health & Safety Focus - Parking

As Governors, we are responsible for the overall safety of the children and conduct H&S audits regularly. Having been built before cars were commonplace, our school has an issue with lack of parking. We operate the Walking Bus to help alleviate this. Please note: The Walking Bus now operates to and from the Village Hall. For those parents who do not choose to use the Walking Bus, please make the safety of the children your priority when choosing where to park. Never park on the "School Keep Clear" yellow zig-zags, not even for a moment, or too close to the junction by the Black Lion pub – it's just not safe. Thank you for helping us keep your children safe.



The Governors are:

Nikki Scully-Crane – Chairman
Parent Governor

Robert Nettleton – Vice Chair
Co-opted Governor

John Paine
Foundation Governor

Denis Mansfield
Foundation Governor

Sally Hughes
Foundation Governor

Ann Horne
Foundation Governor

Colin Carr
Foundation Governor

Anne Thorneycroft
Foundation Governor

Rev Tom Vale
Foundation Governor

Mark Stevens
Parent Governor

Hanif Asmal
Local Authority Governor

Ian Wilson
Staff Governor

Sue Savage
Head Teacher