

InTouch

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Once every two years the school conducts a parent and pupil survey. The survey seeks to gather information on how the school is viewed from the perspective of the most important stakeholders: parents and pupils.

A questionnaire will be sent to all families this May and parents and pupils will be asked to give their opinion on a wide range of topics from the school's ethos and culture to the school's leadership.

When the survey was last conducted in May 2009 the response was overwhelmingly positive. We were particularly pleased to see pupils like coming to school and feel positive about their learning. Similarly, we were pleased parents felt so positively about the school, the opportunities it offers

their children and the good relationship between staff and parents. However, on this occasion only 44% of families returned their questionnaires.

In order to inform our decisions on strategic priorities for development we urge all families to complete the questionnaire. Please remember that your views are of fundamental importance to the way the school operates and this is reflected in the fact that the School Development Plan will be updated to properly reflect your views.

As a Governing Body it is our responsibility to engage with parents and to respond quickly to their views and any significant concerns they may have. In addition to the survey, so that we can receive views throughout the school year, we have established a governors' email address. We encourage parents to share their views with governors through this system and we are interested in suggestions of other ways that parents would like to communicate with governors.

Curriculum Committee

Pirton School's Curriculum Committee meets throughout the year to consider the school's curriculum and ensure that it meets with both national and local requirements.

It is responsible to the Governing Body for contributing to the planning and monitoring of all aspects of the curriculum and of teaching and learning. It considers how the curriculum could be enhanced for the benefit of all pupils.

The work of the committee includes the regular review of a number of school policies, for example policies for the curriculum, for homework, for Gifted and Talented students and for Special Educational Needs. The Curriculum Committee is also required to advise the Governing Body about the impact on the curriculum of any proposed changes in staffing, finance, facilities and administrative arrangements.

PROFILE

Vice-Chair, Pirton Governing Body

Mark Roberts

Occupation: Human Resources Manager

Family: Married to Claire, 2 children, Holly and Matthew - both currently at Pirton School.

Reason(s) for joining the Governing Body: I wanted to take a more active part in the local community and to use skills and experiences to help benefit the school.

Interests: sport, travel, woodturning(!)

Did you know: I was a Bedfordshire junior golf champion, although you would not believe it from the way I play today!



Perspective of a new(ish) Governor

By Sarah Stoney

I am now in my third school term as a Governor of Pirton School. I put myself forward for the position because I wanted to make a positive contribution to the village

The lasting impression I had from all the meetings I have attended is the level of debate that goes on - there is very little fence sitting and lots of open discussion. There is also an obvious respect for the discussion that has gone on and the resulting decision, whether or not all agree.

"I wanted to make a positive contribution to the village"

My most enjoyable time so far was the planning day for Governors and Staff. Staff enthusiasm was infectious and the ideas on delivery of the curriculum flowed freely. I left the school that day feeling inspired and excited about my involvement with Pirton School and my role as a Governor.

Moving forwards I hope that any contribution I can make to the school has a positive impact on the children attending now and in the future.

Parent Governor Election

Have you ever thought of becoming a school governor? If the answer is 'yes', there is currently a vacancy.

There is a clearly defined process for seeking election. Please contact the School

Office if you want to know more. The ballot closes on 27 April.

MacBooks: A New Frontier

The MacBooks have been a huge success with the children enhancing their understanding and knowledge of Music Technology. To take this to the next level the Governors have just approved the purchase of 20 iPod Touches and a multi-unit docking station for charging and syncing. This technology will allow the children to have immediate, individual access to the internet. A wide range of applications will support general learning and the record and playback facility will allow children to access and display their learning in a more generation specific way.

Thought for the Day

The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.

Abraham Lincoln

Quote for the Day

We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.

Epictetus



Contact Us

The best way to contact us is via our email address: governor@pirton.herts.sch.uk

We welcome comments and suggestions on:

- the aims and objectives of the school
- targets that have been set to achieve these
- the school's budget