

ANNUAL



REVIEW

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Summer 2017



WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

The governing body is made up of members from different parts of our school community, parents, staff, community, local authority and foundation governors (appointed by the diocese).

Our main purpose is to ensure that all children in our school are safe, happy, reach their full potential and leave us ready for the next stage in their education. This involves providing a strategic view of the school, acting as a critical friend and ensuring accountability.

Through this newsletter we want to share with you who we are and what we do. We are all proud to be part of such a wonderful school and are grateful to Mr Beverton and all the staff for the great job they do. We are also grateful to the staff for the way they always welcome us into all areas of the school and

their openness to all questions and governor involvement.

With this newsletter, we hope you enjoy learning a bit more about us and hearing about the year that was!

Giulia de Rosa, Chair of Governors

SCHOOL TRIPS

GOVERNORS JOINED THE PUPILS TO:

-  Wilderness Woods
-  Lewes Castle
-  Newhaven Fort
-  Sayers Croft
-  Blacklands Farm
-  Worth Abbey
-  Rottingdean Rock Pools

Want to know more? You can always find further details on ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.co.uk/

WHO WE ARE

We have a full governing board of 14 members, meeting twice a term. There are also six committees which meet to carry out specific tasks and have an overview of the full area and report back to the full governing board.

This is how it all looks:



These committees can also form working groups around specific tasks that need to be carried out, such as establishing a new policy.



We work with the PTA too! We'll have a stall at the Rottingdean Village Fair, Sat 5th Aug 10.30am-4pm

WHAT WE DO

TRAINING

Did you know that governors also attend training? This is to make sure we are up-to-date with statutory requirements and continue to provide knowledgeable support and challenge to the school's headteacher and senior leadership team.

All new governors attend induction courses, both those provided by Brighton and Hove, and ones provided by the Diocese, especially for foundation governors appointed by the diocese.

Here is a sample of some of the courses we attended this year:

- ❖ Online Safety
- ❖ Equalities
- ❖ Budget Monitoring

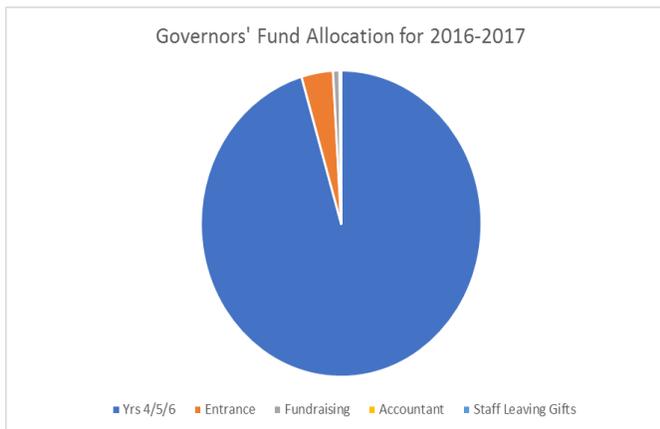
GOVERNORS' FUND

The purpose of the Governors' Fund is to ensure that the school environment is safe, secure and pleasant for staff and children. Currently, the governors fund has raised £7,490.00.

Our Lady of Lourdes school website always has information on the fund, which is generally used to pay 10% needed for capital works and to make up short-falls in spending on maintaining and improving the school. You can also find a link for the income and expenditure

of the Governors’ Fund. In previous years, the collected funds have been spent on replacing ICT equipment, new windows for Yrs 1 and 2, fire alarms and flooring.

Financial status



In this past year, most of these funds have been allocated directly to improving the fabric of the school building. That work included the refurbishment of the school entrance and the enlargement of classroom areas for Yrs 4, 5 and 6.

As many of you are aware, the total transformation of the learning space in Yrs 3 and 4 was also made possible in part from this funding. This truly would not have been possible without you and we thank you for your continued support.

HOW WE ARE

OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES

Faith forms an important part of our daily life here at Our Lady of Lourdes. It informs, guides and underpins what we do to drive the school forward.

Strong links with the church mean that the children are given plenty of opportunities to practice and reflect on Catholic teachings, as this in turn helps them grow as individuals and as part of a community.

“Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God” – The Beatitudes, Gospel of St. Matthew 5:3-10



Father Kevin – who is also a school governor – is at school every Thursday for question time. And you can spot governors attending class masses and other visits to the church or convent to mark special occasions, such as for our First Holy Communion children.

But we are also proud to see the culture of the school go beyond these big events. A wonderful example is when we see staff, KS2 pupils and Sister Cecile from St Martha’s Convent praying the rosary every Friday in *Prayers with Mary*. These are the small events with deep meaning that our school encourages the children to reflect upon.

It is important that we witness our Gospel Values alive in the school; the teachings of Jesus Christ urge us to act with mercy and kindness, and that is also demonstrated through the giving and acts of charity with Mary’s Meals and others the school supports.

INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL LIFE

GROWING UP: RESIDENTIALS

Governor Dee Simson writes:

“For many years now I have accompanied Yr 6, and often Yr 5 as well, on their Residential trips. It’s been a week I look forward to along with the children and have always enjoyed it immensely no matter where we’ve been, and we have been to very many different places.

Many of the children have never stayed away from home for such a long period before so as a governor it has given me the opportunity to witness how the school has played a part in building confidence and independence in them, tools they will need when moving on to the next chapter in their lives.

It’s wonderful to see the camaraderie and team spirit that comes naturally to them, to see how they adapt, and to see even the most shy and apprehensive amongst them change over these few short days, taking on new challenges and achieving things they never thought possible. There are also lots of “lost” socks and muddy trainers but that’s all part of the fun!”

CLASSROOM VISITS

Governors need to know the school from many aspects – safeguarding, legislation, financial, administrative to name a few. But the most important is to know the school from the children’s perspective.

In the past year, Governors have made over 30 visits to the school, and **class link governors** are encouraged to come in regularly. Together with Mr Beverton, the Clerk provides us with updated times and dates so that we can come into the school each term and witness the learning and progress in action!

- We saw children learning about civic duty and responsibility to each other, displayed in their roundtable **Pupil Conferencing** on British / Gospel Values.
- Governors come in to **Pupil Progress Meetings** and **Book Scrutinies** which is when teachers go through the books and find evidence of where the children are progressing.
- **Eco-Council** impressed their link governor by their suggestions and eagerness to make environmental initiatives at the school.
- And at **Student Council** we listened to them reporting on art work for the playground and the feedback they receive from their classmates.

We, governors, are always humbled by the fact there is so much to see, hear and learn from coming into our school.

Any questions? Comments and suggestions? Remember you can always contact the governors by sending an email to the clerk Ruthali@lourdes.brighton-hove.sch.uk who will forward this on.

Also, there is a box for mail to Governors in the school lobby, by the reception desk, so you can drop us a private note anytime too.

Have a wonderful summer!