

Dear Parents

Welcome to both the start of a new school year and our governor's Information Letter.

The governors are a group of elected and appointed (teacher, church, local authority and parent) representatives. We meet several times a term, combining our broad knowledge and experience to act as 'critical friends' to Mr. Symonds and his staff. We oversee the future plans and policies on spending, teaching, curriculum, personnel, premises, admissions, health and safety plus other aspects that help to make Richard Taylor the excellent school it is. We also liaise with many external organisations to help integrate the school into the local community as well as raise funds for projects like the recent classroom enhancements and building improvements.

This is an exciting time for the school. We have recently undergone an excellent Ofsted Inspection in April 2017 and have results at the end of key stage two which place the school in the top 20% of schools nationally.

We are proud to be founding members of the Yorkshire Causeway Multi Academy Trust working with a small group of fantastic local schools to provide outstanding education for every child.

As a governing body we are totally committed to making sure that your child receives the best possible education in a school which remains true to our Christian Faith.

'At Richard Taylor School we educate every child in our safekeeping within a caring Christian community.'

We'd like to introduce ourselves briefly so you know who we are. We'll also be uploading our pictures onto the school website at www.rtsharrogate.com to help you put faces to names. For now though here is the team of governor's who'll be working towards another very enjoyable and successful year at RTS.

David Sanderson

I have been a governor at RTS for 10 years and chair of Governor's for 8. My key role is to act as critical friend to the head teacher and staff. I support the work of the other governors by attending the sub-committee meetings; finance, personnel, premises, curriculum and admissions. In addition, I have particular responsibilities for child protection and ICT.

Steve Scarisbrick

I am a foundation governor at RTS. I have been a governor for 10 years and have two children who both attend St Aidan's. I have three main roles on the governing body; firstly, I am a member of the board of directors of the trust; secondly, I am chair of the personnel committee and thirdly I am the literacy governor. I am delighted to represent a school of which we can all be proud.

Laura Singleton

I am a parent governor and sit on the Personnel and Worship committee, I also have a special interest in science. As part of the personnel committee we meet to discuss staff performance and any staff issues that may have arisen. In the Worship and mission committee we monitor standards in RE and plan worships. I am also class governor of Swaledale, where I spend time with the class and observe activities on a regular basis. I am very proud to be part of such a fantastic school.

Jan Johnson

I am a foundation governor representing the Diocesan Board of Education and the parent of a registered child. I became a governor in 2008 and currently sit on the Premises, Health and Safety, Finance, Worship and Mission and Curriculum committees. I'm also the governor with specific responsibility for Special Educational Needs provision within the school.

Victoria Amella

I was appointed Foundation governor in September 2013. However, I have been a parent of the school for six years and within this time been an active member of the Friends of Richard Taylor, raising vital extra funds to support the school. I have three children who attend the school in various different year groups which gives me a broad understanding of each class. As governor I sit on the Curriculum committee and the Worship & Mission committee.

Jean Atkinson

I am the elected non-teaching governor. I've been working at RTS for 4 years as a higher level teaching assistant, mainly with the older children in Key Stage 2. I'm currently a member of the curriculum and admissions committees of the governing Body.

Andrew Symonds

As Headmaster I attend all meetings of the governing body. At full meetings I submit a report on all aspects of school. I also attend committees which cover the curriculum, finance, personnel, admissions, premises and health and safety. I will answer any questions raised by the governors and keep them fully informed.

Yours sincerely

David Sanderson

Chair of Governors
Richard Taylor School