

'We are committed to provide a nurturing  
stimulating environment  
which empowers each child to realise their  
potential'  
'Your Child, Our Inspiration'



## Governing Body Newsletter – Open Evenings 2019

Hello, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Governing Body and give you a summary of who we are, what we do, and how to contact us.

### What Does the Governing Body Do?

The Governing Body works with the nursery staff team to provide the best possible education for the children who attend Whitecross by:

- Setting the strategic direction for the nursery school, including vision and values, and agreeing on school development plans and policies;
- Monitoring and evaluating the educational performance of the school and delivery of the vision and values of the nursery school;
- Ensuring the school is accountable to the children and parents it serves; to the local community; to those who fund and maintain it and to the staff it employs;
- Ensuring financial health, probity, and value for money.



The full Governing Body meets every half term. There are two committees in place – Resources and Standards – with each committee meeting at least once each term. We also support and attend various events throughout the year such as the Christmas concert, Spring Fayre, and Nursery outings.

### Who Are We?

Our Governing Body comprises a number of different types of governors, all with differing backgrounds and skills.

**Parent Governors** are elected by you, our parents, and we have two parent governors at any one time.

**Co-opted Governors** are appointed by the governing body on the basis of their skills and experience. We can have five co-opted governors on our board.

**Authority Governors** are appointed by the Local Authority. We can have one Local Authority Governor.

**Staff Governors** are elected by our staff members and we can have one staff governor on our governing board.

Our **Clerk to Governors** is Julie Fowler. It is the clerk's role to support and advise our governors in their work.

## **An Introduction to Your Whitecross Governors**

### **Claire Devey, Chair of Governors (Co-opted Governor)**

I am a full-time Mum to Alexander and Joseph who have both attended Whitecross. They had a wonderful time at Whitecross and we were wowed by the professional, caring and knowledgeable team at the nursery school. This experience prompted me to apply for a governor vacancy and I hope to continue to support and contribute to the success of this lovely school in my role as Chair of Governors.



### **Vikki Small, Vice Chair of Governors (Co-opted Governor)**

I became a Parent Governor in 2016 and had Governing Body responsibility for Health and Safety. Last summer I took up a co-opted governor vacancy and the role of Vice Chair. It is a pleasure to work with the committed nursery staff and other governors. Supporting a nurturing environment to the children and contributing to the future success of the nursery school, is the core of what we do. Whitecross made the transition to full time school life for my son, an easier one and my youngest child Isla also attended here.



### **Julie Jennens, Standards Committee Chair (Co-opted Governor)**

My daughters Isla & Elodie both attended Whitecross and I cannot say enough about how utterly fantastic Isla and Elodie's experiences have been. The staff are so welcoming and make the journey into 'formal' learning a real adventure. I live locally and like other governors, wanted to give something back. I have worked for the Probation Service for over 10 years and use some of my experience in my role as Safeguarding Governor.



### **Su Wall (Co-opted Governor)**

Hi, I am the governor for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEN) at Whitecross. I am absolutely delighted to be part of the governance team at Whitecross Nursery School. I have worked in the early years/education sector for over 25 years now with a focus on children aged 0-5yrs. My passion is working with the early years offering high-quality provision for all children to thrive in.

I am currently a senior lecturer at the University of Derby on the BA (Hons) Early childhood studies with specialist expertise in SEND, Safeguarding, Play and the great outdoor learning environment. Previous to this role, I have worked in a variety of nursery environments and I have also been a Local Authority Advisor offering support and guidance for nursery settings.



### **Hilary Smyth (Local Authority Governor)**

I have been working as an Ofsted registered childminder for the past 8 years. My background lies in education ranging from running a pre-school at Lawn Primary (many years ago!) through various roles in Derby City Primary schools including Special Educational Needs Teaching Assistant, Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Learning Mentor, and Behaviour Management. My links with Whitecross Nursery go back roughly 25 years - my children attended and were very happy, I completed my nursery nursing qualifications alongside Mrs Bannister and was mentored by the previous Headteacher. I feel the time is right to use my experience to support Whitecross in continuing to be successful in the wonderful job they do in caring for and educating, children.



### **Jayne Staves (Staff Governor)**

I began my teaching career at an Infants' School in Wirksworth and then took a break to raise my family. I returned to teaching at Whitecross and feel very privileged to be working in a stand-alone Nursery School, where the focus is on how children learn in the early years. I appreciate being part of a small team as it means I can play a part in decisions about the way in which the Nursery continues to move forward.



### **Clare Cole (Parent Governor)**

I am mum to Henry, who attended in 2016, and Albert, who is currently enjoying the Whitecross experience. I have been so impressed with the nurturing and caring environment at Whitecross and becoming a parent governor is the perfect way of giving something back. I am over the moon to be part of the team, contributing predominantly my finance skills.



### **Matthew Scarborough (Co-opted Governor)**

My son William joined Whitecross in September of this year. From day one it was clear, by how well he settled in, that this was a fantastic setting which I was keen to support. In September I was elected as a co-opted governor with no previous experience but felt that my programme management and property management skills could contribute towards the nurseries continued success. In a short period I have learnt a tremendous amount about school life and how important it is to have a strong governing body to support the fantastic work that the nursery team do.



#### **How to Contact the Governors:**

If you have any messages or would like to discuss anything with the Governors, please leave a note in the Governor pigeon hole (next to the children's pigeon holes). Alternatively, you can contact us via email on [clerk@whitecross.derby.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@whitecross.derby.sch.uk) or [chair@whitecross.derby.sch.uk](mailto:chair@whitecross.derby.sch.uk).

We are always keen to hear from parents, carers or family members who are interested in supporting the work of our Governing Body, as Governors or Committee members. So please get in touch if this is something of interest to you.