



Welcome to the Governing Body of Silverdale School and Primary ARP. This document aims to provide an outline of what the Governors do, and to point you in the direction of further reading.

The Governing Body has three main functions, according to the official handbook. These are:

1. Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

More generally, the Governors exist to act as advocates and champions for the pupils in the school, and to help the staff and pupils achieve the best outcomes possible. In order to do this, we work with the leadership team to agree on priorities and directions for the school and then we comment and encourage based on performance related data.

Our mission statement for the school is

Silverdale is an Outstanding School with a culture of partnering for success. We believe that every pupil should be enabled to reach their potential and be equipped to achieve the future they deserve.

The Governing Body of Silverdale School meets 6 times per year – three times to conduct regular business and three times to “deep dive” a particular topic that we think is important and relevant. In addition, there are three sub-committees meeting regularly: Finance, Staffing and Safety; Curriculum, Communications & Admissions; and Policy Review.

It will be useful to get to know the school well – through the information that's shared with Governors, through the school website and through visits to school (see visits policy documents for more guidance on visiting school). The better our knowledge of the school, the more informed our questions to school leadership and the more targeted our support can be. Equally, it's important to bear in mind that Governors are not inspectors. We do not make judgements on classroom teaching via observations (but rather through performance data), we do not spend a great deal of time with the pupils, we do not write the policies or audit the school. These are all tasks delegated to others. Neither do Governors as individuals wield power! We are decisive and influential as a properly constituted Governing Body, but not as individuals.

Governance makes a great difference to the performance of a school, but can also be enormously rewarding as well. I hope it is a positive experience for you, and through you, for the pupils of Silverdale.

Andrew Graydon

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Further information

The following are sources of more information:

Silverdale School website <http://www.silverdaleschool.com/index.html>

School development plan via BlueWave Swift

National Governors Association <http://www.nga.org.uk/Home.aspx>

Governance handbook 2017 and competency framework
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>

Training courses run by Governor Services