Thursday 9th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been some time since the last Governor newsletter, so as the newly elected Chair of Governors at Cadmore End C of E Combined School and Nursery, I am writing to introduce myself, and to give an overview of the purpose of the governing board and an insight into what we do. I will then provide regular newsletters throughout the school year to keep you abreast of the latest news from the governing board.

**A little about me:**

My name is Oliver Westby, and my professional background has been within the engineering sector for the past 15 years, initially as a field service engineer, then in a technical support role, before moving into a management role, where I am currently the customer experience manager for Instron, a leading materials testing equipment manufacturer based in High Wycombe.

I have 2 children at Cadmore (in classes 2 and 3) and a 3rd who will be starting nursery in a couple of years’ time.

I was elected to the governing board in January 2021 as a parent governor and in 2022, became Vice Chair, before assuming the Chair in February 2023, when the previous incumbent, Anne Sheddick, stepped down.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Anne for her hard work and dedication to the school during her time on the governing board.

**What do governors do?:**

Our role as school governors is to work in partnership with the school's leadership team to ensure that the school provides the best possible education for your children.

Governors do not manage the school, this is the role of the headteacher Mrs Groom and her team, but we do oversee the development of the school, the main aim of which is always to provide the highest standard of education for children of all abilities.

As the accountable body for the school, the governing board has three core functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the school leadership to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making
sure its money is well spent

The Full Governing Board meets 3 times each term in order to fulfil these core functions, with meetings focused on teaching and learning, resources and personnel, and general governance of the school.
We also have a finance committee headed by our newly elected Vice Chair of Governors, Jon De Keyser, which meets regularly to review the school’s finances in detail.
When the need arises, we form temporary committees to fulfil specific functions, such as annual performance reviews.

In addition to the above, the governors also visit the school throughout the year and most have a link to specific subjects or areas of the school such as Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Finance, Health and Safety etc. These visits are an important opportunity to see the school in action and governors enjoy the opportunity to meet the staff and children who make Cadmore so special.

The governors at Cadmore are all volunteers who give up their time through a profound desire to see the children of our community flourish as a result of their time at with us, a desire which is perfectly encapsulated by our school's Christian vision:

“*From small beginnings come great things".*

This vision is based on the parable of the mustard seed, a story told by Jesus in the bible, and it was chosen for our vision because of its pertinence to our belief that every child has the potential to grow and to flourish, no matter what their background, and that through nurturing and support, they will go on to achieve great things.

At Cadmore, Mrs Groom and her staff make this vision a reality for your children through the education they provide, and through the pastoral care they offer, by encouraging the children to develop a strong sense of self-belief, to recognise their own potential, and by fostering a love of learning and a desire to make a positive difference in the world.

To find out more about the governors or how we deliver our school vision, please visit the school website: <https://www.cadmoreendschool.org>

Finally, thank you for entrusting your children's education to us. I look forward to working even more closely with the school in my new role as Chair of Governors, and seeing the children at Cadmore thrive as a result of their time with us.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Westby

Chair of Governors

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