



# GOVERNING BODY ROLE

Mr Andy Yule, Chair of Governors

**In simple terms, the Governing Body sets our school's direction and monitors its progress.** To do so, we must work with the headteacher and the staff, balancing challenge with support, but avoiding interfering in day-to-day operational matters.

*The Department for Education makes governors responsible for:*

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

We appointed a new headteacher for September 2022, undoubtedly the most significant responsibility we have and one that has a clear impact on the direction of the school. This is where the governors' role to ensure "clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction" is especially important. During the recruitment process, we reflected hard on what was best for the school and its students and concluded that (as we put in the advert) "the successful candidate will recognise our school's strengths, embrace our culture and ethos, yet challenge us to aim for greater success in all aspects of school life."

Our new headteacher, Mr Walker, picked up on that and has already publicly stated that he is "committed to building on the many successes and strengths [of] the school". Therefore, we are not expecting the school to change dramatically overnight, but we are keen for it to steadily improve and are looking forward to working with him to see that happen.

As the academic year starts to draw to a close, we will be evaluating the past year's achievements with our current headteacher, Mr Brown. We will thank him for the huge contribution he has made to our school over the last nine years as headteacher. We will also want to start considering priorities for next year and for that, the involvement of Mr Walker will be vital. Fortunately his current school is being supportive; he has already spent a morning at our school just before Easter and we expect that he will be able to make a number of further visits this term.

Although governors should remain focussed on the strategic aspects of the school, we are also encouraged to be as well-informed as we can be and to ensure that all we do is aimed to have a positive impact on the students. When reviewing policies or budgets it can be easy to forget this, so we try to take every opportunity we can to see school activities in person.

I was therefore delighted to be involved in the Year 11 Graduation event this week, to have had the opportunity to study some of the students' Records of Achievement and to choose the winner of the Anne Bolt Shield (Anne Bolt - Former Chair of Governors).

Given all the difficulties of the past two years, the standard was impressively high and there were many excellent documents, giving me a tricky task to choose the best. The evening itself was an absolute joy, with staff, parents and carers all keen to share in the successes of the students and it reminded me what a privilege it is to be involved with our school.

All the graduating students should feel proud of how they have developed whilst at Imberhorne, a feeling that I hope will be enhanced when they collect their exam results in August.

