



8th October 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we are a few weeks into the new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to write to you in my role of Chair of Governors at West Kirby Primary School to welcome you to our school and share further information with you about the role of the Governing Body.

The Governing body - what we do and who we are...

Have you ever wondered what the Governors of West Kirby Primary School do and who we are? If so, please read on.

The governing body is often described as a “critical friend” of the school. It agrees the aims and policies, ensures that money is well spent and holds the headteacher to account for the school’s performance. These objectives are achieved in a variety of ways, for example:

- approving policies and spending
- receiving reports and asking questions on all aspects of school performance – for example pupil outcomes, the safety of children, staff training
- Individual governors attending school to talk with teachers and other staff – about, for example, specific subject areas or the buildings
- Sitting on interview panels for staff recruitment

West Kirby Primary School currently has 11 governors as follows:

- The headteacher is automatically a governor
- One staff governor – elected by staff from amongst their own number
- Three parent governors – these posts are advertised to parents when they become vacant and filled by election if there are more candidates than vacancies
- One governor nominated by Wirral Council
- Five governors co-opted by the governing body

Although it may appear that parents are heavily outnumbered, the reality is that most of the co-opted governors are also parents of children at the school – as is the Wirral nominated governor. You can read find out more about each of the governors [here](#). As you can see, we come from a variety of backgrounds but are all united by a passionate desire to serve the school as best we can.

One of the reasons for governing bodies not being 100% elected is that it allows the recruitment of governors with specific skills. We are currently looking to add two new co-opted governors, ideally with knowledge of law or premises. If you are interested in finding out more or have any other questions about the governing body then please e-mail me at chair@westkirby-primary.wirral.sch.uk.

John Cresswell
Chair of Governors