

**Stephen
Hyams**

Governor

JLT's

Q & A

What do you like about our school?

I like the small and friendly atmosphere, where everyone knows each other. I think the school staff are terrific – full of energy and enthusiasm – and that must make learning so much more enjoyable! The new reception area is a big improvement. The Christmas activities and school play are always excellent. I could go on!

What is a school governor?

School governors are volunteers with a wide range of skills and experience who together form the governing body. Together they are responsible for supporting the headteacher in making decisions on all aspects of running the school, and in asking questions to check that decisions made are being fully implemented. This includes all aspects of running the school, such as ensuring children are safe, staffing, finances, premises and the range of activities offered.

Who can be a school governor?

You have to be over 18. Most governors have full-time jobs and volunteer part of their spare time to be a governor. A good governing body has a wide range of skills and experience so they can be most effective when working together as a group. So you need to work well in a team, in making good decisions for the school and in asking good questions of the headteacher to ensure that the school continues to be well run.

What does a governor do?

Governors meet several times a term to discuss what is happening at the school and to make decisions as required. At least one member of the SLT will be present. Governors also visit the school regularly to help them understand how things are going. In addition, governors are responsible for ensuring that the headteacher continues to perform well.

How does an adult become a school governor?

The governing body includes some parents at the school, who have put themselves forward and been elected. The other governors will mostly come from outside the school – they may know someone at the school or know one of the existing governors, or may come through the School Governors' One-Stop Shop which helps schools recruit governors.

How would you keep our school's safe and friendly environment?

Safety is maintained by making sure the school staff are well trained, follow all safety procedures and take prompt action when an incident occurs. The governors keep a watchful eye on this and ensure that procedures and staff training are kept up-to-date. The friendly atmosphere requires a safe atmosphere, and also that everyone is polite, respectful and helpful to others – this is embedded in good British Values promoted by the school. With all that in place, we can all enjoy being in school and a friendly environment is guaranteed.

When you were our age, what was your favourite toy?

I enjoyed building things with Meccano, especially miniature cars and cranes. I also loved toy soldiers and forming them into battles. This was all before computer games existed remember!

Thank you for answering our questions today!

The JLT