

**Richard
Leonard
Governor**

JLT's

Q & A

What do you like about our school?

It is a really friendly and welcoming place, where very different people from many backgrounds come together in tolerance. My son Alexander has been extremely happy here.

What is a school governor?

School governors are there to help make sure that the school is well run (it is, by the way), that its money is being spent sensibly, and that the pupils are safe and receiving the best education possible.

Who can be a school governor?

Any adult can be a school governor. At Kew Riverside, several governors are parents of children at the school, like me, but others are volunteers who are enthusiastic and interested in contributing to the community in this way. The other governors all bring a lot of incredibly useful skills and experience, and it is a real privilege for me to work alongside them.

What does a governor do?

We meet several times a term, to concentrate on different areas of the school's activity – its finances, the curriculum and pupils' progress, and its engagement with the local community – as well as having more general meetings of all governors. We also visit the school during the day to learn about aspects of its work, like the teaching of different subjects, how pupils with special educational needs are helped, and so on. Our job is to support the school's leadership, but also to make sure it is effective.

How does an adult become a school governor?

Parent governors are elected by parents of children at the school. Others are invited to join the governors if they express an interest. The chair of the governors talks to volunteers to see what special skills they might bring and how these fit with the rest of the governors.

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

For me, the most important things are first, to remember to look out for each other, and second, to accept that everyone is different, and that that is a good thing. People at Kew Riverside do these naturally, and that's why it's such a special place.

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

Tricky question – it's a while ago now. I do remember practicing bowling with a cricket ball a lot, and also spending hours trying to build a transistor radio out of the components with a soldering iron. And when I was a bit older I used to love going fishing, though I hardly ever caught anything. The radio never worked either. But mostly I just used to read and read and read and read. I still do.

Thank you for answering our questions today!

The JLT