



WICKERSLEY  
PARTNERSHIP  
TRUST.



February 2023

Governing Body

# NEWSLETTER

## MESSAGE FROM DEBORAH COOKE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

I am now into my second year as a governor for Foljambe Primary and I am also a governor at another school in the Trust and have been for nearly 6 years. I also help out with other governor roles within the Trust as needed.

A lot has changed since I was first appointed – from meetings being online due to covid, to being able to come back into school but at a different school (Thrybergh Primary) whilst the work was being completed at Foljambe, to now having the amazing facilities that we have now for your children.

There are two things that have been consistent throughout all these changes and that has been your amazing children and the hard work and dedication of the staff, with their determination to always do their best for the children at Foljambe Primary School. We are so grateful to you all for your support and understanding over the refurbishment but I am sure you will agree it was all worth it.

As governors our work is focused around teaching and learning and in ensuring the school is offering the best possible values for its pupils. Governors work closely with the Headteacher and with Wickersley Partnership Trust in a strategic role.

As a full governing body, we have 6 formal meetings a year with the Headteacher. We follow an agenda of items that include for example curriculum, teaching & learning, whole school improvements, staffing, looking at WPT policies to name a few. Each governor has a specific lead role, these are Teaching & Learning, Pupil Premium, SEND, Safeguarding, Performance Data. The governor with a specific responsibility will arrange meetings with staff, visits to school to explore that area more and report back to governors at the next local governing body meeting.

As Chair and Vice Chair – we are also invited to an additional meeting every half term with the CEO, Trust directors and chair of governors from other schools within the Trust, both primary and secondary. These meetings are to provide information regarding the Trusts strategic priorities and how these are filtered into our schools. These meetings have proven to be a valuable link with the central Trust and the local schools. It has also enabled the chairs of all the Trust schools to support each other. The role is demanding but rewarding. In being a 'critical friend' to the Headteacher and the central trust team, we are valued and are taken seriously.

We hope that this newsletter will help you know more about what we are doing to support the school, and encourage you to feedback to us anything you think we should be doing to help the school to do better or differently. We are looking to recruit parents to our governing body and if this is something that you want to find more about, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You don't need to have any experience and you will be supported to be able to fulfil the role. You just need to be committed to give your time and be willing to learn.

Deborah Cooke

Welcome to our governing body newsletter.

We aim to distribute a newsletter at least once a year to update parents, families, and carers on the work of the governing body.

As this is our first newsletter as Foljambe Primary School Governors, we thought it would be a great opportunity to introduce ourselves.

Our governors are as follows: -

**Deborah Cooke**  
Chair of Governors (Data Performance)

**Caroline Needham**  
Vice-Chair of Governors (SEND/Pupil Premium)

**Matt Sutton**  
Co-opted Governor (Safeguarding and Looked After Children)

**Tracy Mountain**  
Co-opted Governor (SEND/PP)

**Melissa Jenkinson**  
Co-opted Governor (Teaching & Learning)

## ACADEMIC YEAR 22/23

We work closely with the Headteacher and meet regularly. Decisions are democratic, with all governors being given as much information as possible to aid them in that decision-making process, ensuring lively often lengthy and healthy discussions prior to decision making. Our work is focused around teaching and learning and in ensuring the school is offering the best possible values for its pupils.

### Meetings Attended in Academic Year 22/23

	Autumn 1 01.11.2022	Autumn 2 06.12.2022	Spring 1 07.02.2023
Bev Tate-Brier			
Deborah Cooke			
Caroline Needham			
Melissa Jenkinson			
Matt Sutton			
Tracy Mountain			

We are now back in school for all our meetings and visits.

Governors also attended the following: --

- School 'walk arounds' - a walk around school to observe learning and behaviour
- Presentations from subject leaders
- Governor training - provided by WPT/online
- Wickersley Partnership Trust conference
- Wickersley Partnership Trust awards
- Xmas carols
- Trust Link Meetings with WPT School Chairs, CEO & Directors
- Meetings for Pupil Premium/SEND

Please see more information below about the governors of Foljambe Primary School.

"I have 2 children, both now at secondary school but both attended a Trust school for primary education. My eldest daughter is at Nottingham Trent University. I have worked for many years in the private sector for a variety of companies in business administration for the first part of my career, moving into accounting and finance. I trained in business accounting and finance whilst I worked and attended university part time. I now work for the family business and manage the accounts and a small accounts team. I have seen through my employment how a good education gives the basis for so many opportunities. I am passionate about education and believe that every child should have access to good quality education. I want to be involved in ensuring that all the children at Foljambe are happy and flourish with the best opportunities regardless of their ability."



**Deborah Cooke**  
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

"I have been the Vice Chair of Governors for a small primary school in Doncaster and was thrilled to be asked to join the Foljambe community. Since qualifying from University with an Education degree I have always worked within the education and care sectors. I have a passion for education and ensuring that all children receive the best possible start and opportunities in life. I currently work as a Director for an organisation that works closely to support South Yorkshire schools with HR services. I am really excited to be involved in what is a very exciting time in Foljambe Primary and be actively involved in the school community."



*Caroline Needham*  
VICE - CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

"Having lived locally all my life and attending Dalton Foljambe myself as a child, I am looking forward to coming on board the governing body to ensure all our children receive the best quality education they deserve. I have always taken a keen interest in the education of young children and I love to see children's progression and achievements. I have a CACHE Level 3 diploma in childcare and previously worked within Sure Start settings, providing quality care and play experiences with children aged 0-4, also experiencing working with children with SEND needs on a 1-1 basis. I currently work as a lunchtime supervisor at a primary school and also do exam invigilating at a local secondary when required. I thoroughly enjoy this as it works around my children's needs. My family is so important to me. I have 3 children aged 20, 17 and 10. Children's education/future is very important and I hope that my experiences, views and opinions as a parent will help make a difference in the education of Foljambe children and that the Trust works towards connecting with parents and the community."



*Tracy Mountain*  
PARENT GOVERNOR

"I have been teaching at Wickersley Partnership Trust now for 5 years. I am currently a teacher in Y6 and part of the Senior Leadership Team at Aston Lodge Primary, so I truly understand the importance of having a safe, happy and thriving school environment. I know a lot about teaching and learning within all our schools and I'm hoping I can visit Foljambe a lot to look at all of your brilliant work really soon. My favourite subjects are computing, maths and science! I have lived locally all my life and often pass Foljambe Primary School on my travels, so I thought that it would be a great opportunity to join your governing body; learning more about the school and all the fantastic things you are doing! I also went to a primary and secondary school in WPT now, so I am really excited to see what you're all up to this year!"



*Melissa Jenkinson*  
CO-OPETED GOVERNOR

"After leaving university with a BA in Social Policy and a MA in Politics I worked as an Intelligence Analyst with the Police. I subsequently returned to university and obtained my MA in Social Work. I practiced for 10 years as a Social Worker, taking on various management and senior management roles within Child Protection, Looked After Children and Child Exploitation. I started working for Wickersley Partnership Trust as the Senior Operations Manager at the Central Team in January 2021. As I have two primary school aged daughters of my own, I was excited to join the Governing Body at Foljambe. It is a fantastic time to be involved, with the new school and exciting opportunities that this brings for the children."



*Matt Sutton*  
CO-OPETED GOVERNOR





Wickersley Partnership Trust consists of a group of thirteen Primary and Secondary schools predominantly in Rotherham. The children and young people it serves are aged from three to eighteen and total almost seven thousand! Each school is supported by its own community based Local Governing Body made up of parents/carers, local community representatives and businesses.

Schools across the country require people to volunteer as Governors on their Local Governing Bodies. Despite the fact that an estimated 250,000 people volunteer in this way each year, there is still a shortage.

So, why not give back and help give children and young people the best start in life, whilst developing your own skills in a way which can benefit your career. We like to think of it as a win-win situation!

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A TEACHER  
TO CHANGE A YOUNG PERSON'S LIFE!**

You can make a positive difference to the lives of young people in your local community by becoming a School Governor and helping to drive school improvement. A school's Local Governing Body plays an important role in a school's success, working together as a team to support and challenge senior school leadership and guiding their strategic direction.

School Governors need to reflect and represent the local communities they serve. They also need people with a good blend of knowledge, skills and experience. So, whatever your age or background and wherever you are in your career, you will have a lot to contribute and gain from being a School Governor.

Staff, parents, pupils and governors have come a long way together since I joined and together with the Governing Body and the support of the Head teacher we are all determined to ensure that our children receive the very best education possible.