



Monkshouse Primary School



Governors' Newsletter - December 2015

New Governor

Adam McVeigh joined the governing body as a parent governor after a vacancy arose due to the resignation of Mark Willis.



Academy Status



The school is still involved in discussions with the DfE regarding Academy status. This would mean that the school will have no longer be maintained by Lincolnshire County Council and governors and staff will have increased freedom to decide how the school budget is spent and how the school is run.

Results

Last year's Monkshouse leavers achieved very good results in reading and writing and governors and staff want to ensure that success extends to maths too.



The aim is to ensure a large number of pupils not only reach the expected level in maths, but, as with English based subjects at the school, many go on to exceed expectations for their age group.

OUR KEY PRIORITIES

Key priorities this year

In the bid to constantly improve teaching and learning at Monkshouse, each year Mrs Goodsell agrees some key priorities to work towards with the governing body. At the regular meetings Mrs Goodsell has with governors she reports on how well the school is doing in reaching the goals set against these priorities.

This year's key priorities have been agreed as:

- Improving teaching and learning in maths. All staff will undergo specialist 'teaching outstanding maths lessons' training early next year and there is ongoing scrutiny of how maths is being taught in the school.
- The introduction of a new assessment system. The Government introduced a new initiative called Assessment without Levels for September 2015 due to the previous system leading, in their opinion, to schools driving pupils through the levels too quickly without necessarily ensuring they had a deep understanding of what they had learned. Our new system has now been introduced in the school and the first set of data has been presented to the Governors Standard sub-committee.
- Monkshouse has already been assessed to be a "good" school by Ofsted. We know that much of what goes on within the school is already outstanding. Through rigorous scrutiny, continuous monitoring and sharing of good practice we are trying to ensure that higher level becomes standard.





Governor Profile



Vice Chairman Ian Haynes



Ian Haynes, 49, is married to Mrs Haynes, a teaching assistant at Monkshouse and has two children both of whom attended the school.

Mr Haynes runs his own business as a gas engineering consultant working on large scale projects – one of the most notable to date being the installation of the Olympic flame.

When did you get involved as a governor and why?

I was approached by a previous headteacher around 2008 and took up the role of vice chairman within a couple of years of joining.

What motivates you to be a governor?

I just like to think I'm doing something good for a local asset. I can't teach and I leave the teaching to Mrs Goodsell and her team, but I like to think I can use my business experience and really help hold the school to account on things like finances and premises. We have gone from a school that was in deficit to a school running a positive budget and I think the school looks sharper and the environment is what it should be. For me, it's all about ensuring we have a great school that children and parents want to come to – where children get a good education.

Have there been any outstanding moments in your time as governor – good or bad?

There have been challenging times but I feel we are through those now. Staff morale has really improved in the last three years.

How much time do you commit to being a governor?

I should think it equates to four or five hours a month. As well as attending regular meetings at the school, I come in once each term to carry out a health and safety walk – something for which I am qualified through my work. I walk through every room of the school and just check things like first aid kits are where they should be, fire escapes are clear and functioning and there are no hazards.

What would you say to others about being a governor?

If you have an additional skill to offer all the better, but really its just about being an external voice – someone who is able to offer an opinion. It may not be the right opinion but you have got to have that critical eye. I'd say to anyone that it is something they ought to try. It's something I will continue to do for as long as I can or as long as they want me!