



Our Governing Board

What is it?

All schools in England have a Governing Board, which is responsible for overseeing many of the strategic decisions of the school. A key role is to act as a 'critical friend' to support, challenge, ask questions and ultimately to represent the school community.

The Governing Board work in close partnership with the headteacher, senior leadership team and staff. Whilst the headteacher is responsible for the day to day running of the school, the governors are involved with such things as staffing, curriculum, school premises and finance. It ensures the school functions well and maintains their statutory obligations.

Who are we?

On the 1st March 2012 the governing board elected to convert to an Academy. We took this decision as we knew it would give us greater flexibility to provide the best for our pupils. The structure of the governing board remained the same and consists of:

- The Headteacher/Accounting Officer
- 6 Community Governors
- 1 Co-opted Governor
- 2 Parent Governors
- 2 Staff Governors

The standard term of office for a governor is 4 years. The chairman and vice chairman are elected annually at the first meeting of the academic year.

The Chair of Governors is Ms JoAnne Rees, who can be contacted via the school office or directly via email at Joanne.Rees@leics.gov.uk

Much of the work of the governing board is delegated to committees and we have the following committees:

- Finance
- Staffing
- Pay
- Health and Safety
- Premises
- Curriculum and Performance

The governing board of Forest Way School is currently:-

Ms JoAnne Rees, Chair of the Governing Board, Member and Trustee/Director

- Appointed 03/02/2005
- Community Governor, Member and Trustee/Director until 08/02/2021
- Sits on the finance, staffing, curriculum and performance, grievance, staff disciplinary/capability appeals, pupil discipline, complaints, performance management and pay committees and has responsibility for English and Racist/Hate Incident monitoring
- Governor attendance 2014/15: 2/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 0/1 Annual General Meeting, 3/3 Finance committee meetings, 3/3 Staffing committee meetings, 2/2 Pay committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2015/16: 3/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General Meeting, 3/3 Finance committee meetings, 3/3 Staffing committee meetings, 2/2 Pay committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2016/17: 2/2 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General Meeting, 2/2 Finance committee meetings, 2/2 Staffing committee meetings, 0/1 Pay committee meetings. 1/1 Curriculum and Performance committee meeting
- Register of interests: none

'I have been a governor for over 10 years, after joining the Governing Board in February 2005. Prior to working for Leicestershire County Council, I taught for over eight years in Nottinghamshire and developed a keen interest in working with students with special educational need and disabilities. I now work in School Admissions and Pupil Services dealing with students across Leicestershire. As a governor at Forest Way I am a member of the Finance, Pay and Staffing Committees. I am also a clerk to governors for a junior school in Thurmaston.'

Mrs Rosemary Baker, Vice-Chair of the Governing Board, Member and Trustee/Director

- Appointed 02/02/2009
- Community Governor, Member and Trustee/Director until 28/02/2020
- Chairs the finance committee and sits on the staffing, pay appeals, grievance appeals, staff disciplinary/capability, pupil discipline, attendance management and performance management committees and has responsibility for Safeguarding, Child Protection and Anti-Bullying, Pupil Premium and Maths.
- Governor attendance 2014/15: 2/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General Meeting, 3/3 Finance committee meetings, 3/3 Staffing committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2015/16: 2/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General meeting, 3/3 Finance committee meetings, 3/3 Staffing committee meetings

- Governor attendance 2016/17: 1/2 Full Governing Board meetings, 0/1 Annual General meeting, 1/2 Finance committee meetings, 1/2 Staffing committee meetings, 1/1 Pay committee meeting
- Register of interests: none

'I have worked in education since 1975 and had links with Forest Way School and its wider community since my appointment as Headteacher of Castle Rock High School in 1997. I took early retirement in 2008 to pursue my love of travel. I am passionate about ensuring that young people are well educated in a caring and supportive school setting and am delighted to join the committed and hardworking governing Board at Forest Way.'

Mr David Beaumont, Trustee/Director – resigned 29/03/2016

- Appointed 19/08/2001
- Community Governor and Trustee/Director until 29/03/2016
- Sits on grievance appeals, staff disciplinary/capability appeals, staffing appeals and complaints panels and has responsibility for Art, Design and Technology
- Governor attendance 2014/15: 3/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General Meeting
- Governor attendance 2015/16: 0/2 Full Governing Board meeting
- Register of interest: none

'I joined the Governing Board in 2011 and am enjoying working alongside very experienced colleagues. I am a retired police officer and currently working as a civilian in the police force. I am looking forward to a long and happy association with this very popular school.'

Mrs Kim Booth, Trustee/Director

- Appointed 01/09/2015
- Staff Governor and Trustee/Director until 31/8/2019
- Sits on the finance committee and has responsibility for Geography and Computing and Creative Curriculum
- Governor attendance 2015/16: 3/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General meeting, 3/3 finance committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2016/7: 2/2 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General meeting, 2/2 finance committee meetings
- Register of interests: none

'This will be my second term as a staff governor. I have worked at the school for many years, initially as a nursery nurse but during the past 6 years I retrained and qualified as a teacher with full support from the school. Out of school I enjoy creative activities, walking, music and theatre and exploring different parts of the country, particularly the coastal areas. I look forward to learning about the role of staff governor and being part of a governing Board that puts the needs and interests of the pupils first.'

Mrs Laura Browne, Trustee/Director

- Appointed 10/02/2017
- Parent Governor and Trustee/Director until 09/02/2021

Mrs Shirley Harris, Trustee/Director – Term of Office ended 03/02/2017

- Appointed 04/02/2013
- Parent Governor and Trustee/Director until 03/02/2017
- Chairs the premises committee, sits on the attendance management and pupil discipline committees and has responsibility for Food Technology and Modern Foreign Languages
- Governor attendance 2014/15: 3/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General Meeting, 2/2 Premises committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2015/16: 3/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 0/1 Annual General meeting, 2/2 Premises committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2016/17: 2/2 Full Governing Board meetings, 0/1 Annual General meeting, 1/1 Premises committee meetings
- Register of interests: none

'This is my third year as parent governor and I am very honoured to represent the parents of Forest Way School. I am married with three boys, one of whom has been at Forest Way for nine years and is now twelve years old. I have worked with children for 29 years in a variety of roles and feel I have a good insight to their world. I very much enjoy being a governor and would like to help other parents in any way I can. I am very proud of Forest Way School.'

Mrs Rebecca Hayes, Trustee/Director

- Appointed 01/02/2017
- Staff Governor and Trustee/Director until 31/01/2021

Mrs Trish Marney, Trustee/Director – Term of Office ended 01/02/2017

- Appointed 01/10/1999
- Staff Governor and Trustee/Director until 01/02/2017
- Chairs the Health and Safety committee, and has responsibility for Governor Training and Development and Inclusion
- Governor attendance 2014/15: 3/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General Meeting, 3/3 Health and Safety committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2015/16: 3/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General meeting, 3/3 Health and Safety committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2016/17: 2/2 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General meeting, 2/2 Health and Safety committee meetings
- Register of interests: none

'I have worked at Forest Way School as secretary and a First Aider at Forest Way for 17 years and am now in my fourth term as a member of the governing Board. Over the years I have seen the consistent growth of the school. The development and move to the new building was both exciting and challenging and like all the staff I am proud to work in such a wonderful environment. In my leisure time I enjoy spending time with my four young grandchildren.'

Mr Tony Norwell, Member and Trustee/Director – Term of Office ended 08/02/2017

- Appointed 01/10/1998
- Community Governor, Member and Trustee/Director until 08/02/2017
- Chairs the staffing committee, sits on the finance, pay, grievance, staff disciplinary/capability, pupil discipline, complaints, performance management and attendance management committees and has responsibility for PE and RE
- Governor attendance 2014/15: 3/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General Meeting, 3/3 Finance committee meetings, 3/3 Staffing committee meetings, 2/2 Pay committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2015/16: 2/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General meeting, 3/3 Finance committee meetings, 3/3 Staffing committee meetings, 2/2 Pay committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2016/7: 0/2 Full Governing Board meetings, 0/1 Annual General meeting, 1/2 Finance committee meetings, 1/2 Staffing committee meetings, 1/1 Pay committee meetings
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- Register of interest: none

'I have now had the privilege of being a governor at Forest Way for 17 years. I have always been fully committed to providing the pupils at Forest Way with the best possible facilities for their education. I am married to Christine and live in Coalville and have one daughter and two grown up grandchildren. I am interested in most sports, though now solely as a spectator. Being a member of the Rotary club of Coalville, I am responsible for organising the annual school visit to Drayton Manor Park each June.'

Mr Kevin Riley, Trustee/Director, Member from 30/01/2017

- Appointed 21/09/2015
- Community Governor, Trustee/Director and Member until 20/09/2019
- Sits on the finance, staffing, curriculum and performance, grievance appeals, performance management, staff disciplinary/capability and attendance management appeal committees and has responsibility for Music and Post 16

- Governor attendance 2015/16: 2/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General meeting, 1/2 Pay committee meetings, 1/2 Finance meetings, 1/2 Staffing committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2016/17: 2/2 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General meeting, 0/1 Curriculum and performance committee meetings, 2/2 Finance meetings, 2/2 Staffing committee meetings
- Register of interests: none

'I have recently taken on the role of governor at Forest Way School. I am delighted to be associated with this exceptional special school. I am 63 years old. I have worked in training and development roles in several organisations including De Montfort University and Leicestershire Police before retiring in 2011. In my spare time, when I am not out on a tandem with my wife, I am learning how to grow crops on an allotment. I also enjoy salsa dancing.'

Mrs Gail Seaton – Headteacher and Accounting Officer

I have recently taken over as Headteacher, after working at Forest Way for over 10 years. I feel very privileged to be taking on this role, working with such a supportive and committed team of staff and Governors. I have worked in education for over 20 years, this includes experience in mainstream primary and secondary schools as well as an international school. I have 2 daughters who are both away at University. In my spare time I enjoy swimming and cycling.

- Appointed 24/08/2016
- Headteacher and Accounting Officer
- Sits on the finance, staffing and health and safety, curriculum and performance committees
- Governor attendance 2016/17: 2/2 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General meeting, 1/1 Curriculum and performance committee meetings, 2/2 Finance meetings, 2/2 Staffing committee meetings, 2/2 Health and Safety committee meetings
- Register of interests: none

Mr James Shanley, Trustee/Director

- Appointed 16/05/2016
- Community Governor and Trustee/Director until 15/05/2020
- Sits on the grievance appeals, staff disciplinary/capability appeals, complaints committees and has responsibility for Art, Design and Technology.
- Governor attendance 2015/16: 1/1 Full Governing Board meeting
- Governor attendance 2016/17: 2/2 Full Governing Board meeting. 1/1 Annual General meeting

- Register of interests: none

'I have recently joined the Governing Board as a Community Governor, having retired early from the Ministry of Justice after 34 years. I am delighted to be involved with such an outstanding school, where each day I witness a great deal of professionalism from committed staff and such enthusiasm from the pupils. All of my children attend the school. When I have some free time Wendy, my wife and I tend to go cycling and I am always being told off for fixing bikes in the kitchen. I have over 30 years' experience of working with people with special educational needs and disabilities.'

Mrs Lynn Slinger OBE, Headteacher, Accounting Officer - retired 31/08/2016

- Headteacher until 31/08/2016
- Sits on the finance, staffing and health and safety committees.
- Governor attendance 2014/15: 3/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General Meeting 3/3 finance committee meetings, 3/3 staffing committee meetings, 3/3 Health and Safety committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2015/16: 3/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General meeting, 3/3 finance committee meetings, 3/3 staffing committee meetings, 2/3 Health and Safety committee meetings
- Register of interests: none

'I have always attended governors' meetings in the capacity of headteacher of Forest Way but on conversion to Academy Status I am now recognised as a member of the governing Board. I have enjoyed working with a group of hardworking, committed volunteers who work so hard for the benefit of the pupils of Forest Way. I have two children aged 23 and 26 years old. My hobbies include swimming, horse riding, music and the theatre.'

Mr Mark Snow, Trustee/Director, Member from 30/01/2017

- Appointed 25/01/2016
- Community Governor, Trustee/Director and Member until 24/01/2020
- Sits on the pay, grievance and staff disciplinary/capability appeals.
- Governor attendance 2015/16: 2/2 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Pay committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2016/17: 1/2 Full Governing Board meetings, 0/1 Pay committee meetings, 1/1 Annual general meeting, 1/1 finance committee meeting, 1/1 staffing committee meeting
- Register of interests: none

'I have recently started as a Community Governor at Forest Way School. I work in the head office of a bank in Leicestershire and organised community days for bank staff to Forest Way

in 2014 and 2015. Having seen the school and met some of the children, I wanted to do more. I am delighted to now be in a position to do so and bring my business skills to help. I am married and have 3 children who are at varying stages of flying the nest, which means I am able to spend more time dog walking, golf and football.'

Dr Lesley Trivett, Trustee/Director

- Appointed 19/05/2014
- Co-opted Governor and Trustee/Director until 18/05/2018
- Sits on the finance, staffing, pay, grievance, staff disciplinary/capability appeals, complaints, attendance management appeals and performance management committees and has responsibility for Science and Careers, Work Experience, PSHEC, Forest Schools
- Governor attendance 2014/15: 3/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 0/1 Annual General Meeting, 3/3 Finance committee meetings, 3/3 Staffing committee meetings, 2/2 Pay committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2015/16: 3/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General meeting, 3/3 Finance committee meetings, 3/3 Staffing committee meetings, 2/2 Pay Committee meetings
- Governor attendance 2016/17: 2/2 Full Governing Board meetings, 0/1 Annual General meeting, 1/2 Finance committee meetings, 1/2 Staffing committee meetings, 1/1 Pay Committee meetings
- Register of interests: none

'I am an enthusiastic co-opted member of the governing Board. I come from a family with an educational background with my father being a retired primary headteacher. I am by profession a dental surgeon working in my own general practice and shortly to be semi retiring. I have followed the progress of Forest Way School from the beginning and hope to bring my knowledge to help the school by being a governor. I have previously been a governor of a primary school so do have some insight into the duties required.'

Ms Julie Watkinson, Trustee/Director

- Appointed 04/12/2014
- Parent Governor and Trustee/Director until 03/12/2018
- Sits on premises and health and safety, staff disciplinary/capability, staffing appeals, grievance appeals and attendance management appeals committees and has responsibility for History
- Governor attendance 2014/15: 2/2 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General Meeting, 1/1 Health and Safety committee meeting, 1/1 Premises committee meeting

- Governor attendance 2015/16: 3/3 Full Governing Board meetings, 0/1 Annual General meeting, 3/3 Health and Safety committee meeting, 2/2 Premises committee meeting
- Governor attendance 2016/17: 1/2 Full Governing Board meetings, 1/1 Annual General meeting, 2/2 Health and Safety committee meeting, 1/1 Premises committee meeting
- Register of interests: none

'I joined the governing Board as a parent governor in January 2015. I have been a foster carer for children with special needs for 19 years. Most children are long term and one child in my care attends Forest Way. I will always do my best to listen to pupils, parents and carers. I cannot speak highly enough of the school and the hard work that all members of staff do to make Forest Way a safe and happy environment.'

Message from the Chairman of Governors

August 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

As we are nearing the end of July 2016, it is a good time to look back on the past year and look forward to what the new term has in store for us.

I feel very privileged to be the Chair of Governors at Forest Way School. As a Community Governor for over ten years, I have had the opportunity to work alongside a group of highly skilled, motivated and committed staff under the guidance of an extremely passionate headteacher. From the start of the autumn term, following the retirement of the previous headteacher, a new headteacher has been appointed who will provide a different outlook but with the same level of passion. Both I and my fellow governors share this passion and strive constantly to ensure that each pupil at Forest Way is given the encouragement and opportunities to do the very best that they can during their time at school and beyond. We want to ensure that all our pupils achieve the best possible outcomes by the time they leave Forest Way.

Everyone at Forest Way remains delighted that Ofsted continued to rate the school as 'Outstanding'. I am sure that it gives you a lot of reassurance as it is a tremendous achievement. This is an endorsement to everyone's ongoing work and commitment to make Forest Way the excellent school it is today. The Governing Board will work to support Mrs Seaton to ensure everyone is focused on improving teaching and learning and raising pupils' achievement.

The Governing Board are extremely committed and their enthusiasm, expertise and experience benefits the school enormously and adds value. We are all very proud of the school and I am pleased to have been able to play a part in the many developments, both to the physical environment, the management of the school and curriculum delivery.

As the lead Teaching School in the area, we are able to take a major role in the training of all staff and new entrants to the teaching profession. Our aim is to produce new teachers trained to an extremely high standard and provide training to develop them throughout their teaching careers. In addition, we lead an alliance with many other schools and use our expertise to work collaboratively with each other for the benefit of all of our pupils.

I would like to say a big thank you, to all our parents and carers, for your ongoing support to the school and its staff. I am really enjoying my term of office as Chair of Governors and look forward to working with you in the future for the benefit of all our pupils.

Best wishes

JoAnne Rees

JoAnne Rees
Chair of Governors

