



## **Hello and welcome to the Newsletter from the Governing Board of Loughton School.**

The role of the board of governors takes place in the background and as such the children and parents don't get to know much about us. We are hoping that this newsletter will help parents know a little more about who we are and what we do.

As an academy, the governors at Loughton School are actually called trustees. Our trustees include members of staff, parents from the school and other co-opted members of the community.

The trustees at Loughton school are a positive team of individuals who enjoy working together. When we are not meeting face to face, we communicate with each other using secure, online tools. Our main contributions happen during our regular meetings. The full board of trustees meets once every half term and there are a number of sub-committees that meet regularly to handle specific areas of the school's business.

We don't take part in the day-to-day running of the school, that is done by our excellent leadership team, led by the headteacher.

Our role is more strategic. We have three main jobs to do

- Set the overall vision and ethos of the school
- Hold the headteacher to account
- Oversee the school's budget

Our meetings are usually aimed at some or all of these objectives and we receive regular feedback so that we can monitor how the school is performing against our aims. We also monitor more specific areas including child safeguarding, teaching and learning attainment, SEN delivery, GDPR, IT infrastructure, grounds and maintenance, risk auditing and more. Our meetings are usually attended by the headteacher or deputy headteacher and often by other members of the team here at Loughton, so we can get feedback on all of the above and more.

The last two years have been incredibly difficult for many of our families and staff. Throughout this time there has been a common consensus of appreciation among the governing board as we watched the Loughton School family step up rather than shy away from these exceptional circumstances. The governing board wishes to thank the parents and the children for all their positivity and resilience during these unprecedented challenges.

Now that restrictions have eased, the trustees have already made several visits to the school and we are looking forward to spending more time in school, attending the many fantastic school events, and getting to know our parents and children.

## **Meet the current team:-**

**Sandy Blackledge (Chair)** - I have been a co-opted governor since 2014. I am a qualified accountant and have primarily worked in the construction and engineering sectors. My two children went to Loughton School. I believe in educating the whole child and love the creative curriculum at our school. I want to be able to look every child in the eye who leaves Loughton School and know that we did our absolute best for them.

**Janet Cooper (Clerk)** - I have been clerk to the governing body for several years, a rather challenging role which I enjoy. I also work within the school as an LSA. I have 2 children who attended the school and are now at university. I enjoy reading, gardening, walking the dog and travelling in our campervan in my spare time.

**Hannah Cheetham-Joshi** - I joined the Governing Board as a co-opted governor in December 2020. I moved to Loughton in 2016 and have two young children. I am keen to support the school and community. I have a teaching background, and I now work for an education charity as a member of the senior leadership team. In my spare time I am a keen photographer and almost always have my camera with me. I also enjoy exploring new places with my family, travelling to different countries and watching tennis.

**Charlene Cruickshank** - I joined as a parent governor in November 2021. I have 3 children - my middle child is currently in year 6 at Loughton. I applied to be a parent governor at Loughton School as I have supported the school as a parent helper through trips and visits and was keen to support the school further. In my spare time I like to get outside and go for walks with my family.

**Ben Fairhall** - I am a co-opted governor with two young children, both are currently thriving at Loughton School. As a Qualified Chartered Accountant for nearly 20 years, I have been fortunate to have had a varied career across audit, property, transport and the charity sector. My family keep me busy and in my spare time I am a keen runner and an active member of a local running club. I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to work with the school leadership team to support the children at Loughton School and my local community

**Rebekah Green (Headteacher)** - In September 2010, I moved to Loughton School and I have been here ever since. I have had various roles in the school – year leader, SENDCo, Assistant Head, Deputy Head and now Headteacher. My vision for the school is to provide the best education we can for our children, which develops the whole child.

**Matthew Haughton** - I joined the Loughton Governing Body as a co-opted governor. I love programming computers and have spent my career of nearly 20 years writing software. I grew up in Blackpool and moved to Milton Keynes in 2009 to work with a company local to the area, I still work for that same company writing bespoke business database software. Before starting my career I studied Artificial

psychology, philosophy and neuroscience. I live with my wife and daughter, who is currently at the school, and our cats. In my spare time I like to read, spend time in the garden and travel to new countries; most of all, though, I enjoy spending time with my family.

**Jane Solloway** - I am a year 4 class teacher, year leader and staff governor. I have taught at Loughton School since 2005, when both my children were pupils here and was previously a Parent Governor at Glastonbury Thorn School. I have enjoyed accompanying Loughton's trips to France and to Germany. I play viola regularly with Milton Keynes Sinfonia and Claydon Chamber Orchestra and I also volunteer with Girlguiding UK. Both my children have finished studying at university and now working so my husband and I enjoy travelling and cooking together in our spare time.

**Neil Stickland** - I am a co-opted governor having joined the governing body 4 years ago. Back in 1994 I was asked to become a parent governor at Lord Grey School and later became the chair of the premises committee which I really enjoyed. My children have now grown up and I'm a grandfather to three, one of which attends Loughton School. I have a small online business that keeps me busy, in my spare time I enjoy DIY around the home.

**Geoff Twiselton** - I've just returned to Loughton School as a co-opted Governor, and have been a Vice Chair Governor at two other schools within Milton Keynes. I was born in Wolverton and have now lived in Loughton for 23 years. I worked within the rail industry for nearly 40 years before semi retiring as a health and safety consultant working with a major construction company's executive team. The role is a great way to support my local community and gives me a sense of worth, by contributing to our young people's development through their educational life.

**If you are interested in joining us, or have any questions, please contact Janet Cooper at [cooperj@loughton.school](mailto:cooperj@loughton.school). You will also find more information on the school website.**