

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE GOVERNING BODY

Dear Parents,

It is now nearly three years since Castleton and Glaisdale schools federated (how time flies!), and the Federated Governing Body was formed, and I thought I'd give you an update on how things are going, especially since new families have joined us in the intervening time.

We are not made up "half from Glaisdale, half from Castleton" nor do we feel like that: we are ONE governing body with the interests of ALL our children and BOTH our schools as our only priority. If you were to ask any governor, I am sure they would say that that is how it works in practice and that we are a body that functions "as one". However, we are formally constituted in law, and cannot change the categories of governor we have. This is how we are made up:

We have 12 governors, all of whom have a four-year term of office:

- ONE is a Local Authority governor – that's me, Delia Liddle. I am currently the chair.
- ONE is the headteacher – Mrs Douglass.
- ONE is elected by staff at both schools – this is Mrs Grace from Castleton.
- TWO are elected by the parents – Mrs Polly Findlay was elected by Castleton parents, and Pascal Thivillon was elected by Glaisdale parents.

The other governors are co-opted by the governing body, and they are chosen and recruited for relevant skills and interests that will help the work of the governing body. The current co-opted governors are:

- Mrs Denise Davidson. She was the chair of governors at Glaisdale before we federated, and is a former headteacher with many years' experience of teaching and leadership. She is the current deputy chair.
- Mrs Sue Barlow. Sue was also a Glaisdale governor before the federation, is a retired teacher and is the governor who leads on special needs in the federation.
- Mr Rob Hutt is the key stage 2 teacher at Glaisdale, and was co-opted because we wanted a staff member from each school on the governing body.
- Mrs Louise Margetts was co-opted as she had been a governor at Castleton pre-federation, and had great experience and represented continuity. She is the parent of a child at Castleton School.

A profile of each governor is on the school website.

- Mr Dan Medcalf, the parent of children at Castleton School, had expressed an interest in becoming a governor, has observed a full-day governing body meeting, and will be formally co-opted at the next Governing Body meeting. His co-option is on the basis of his experience in business, leadership and staff issues.

Two co-opted places are currently vacant, and the governing body will recruit according to our needs of specific skills and experience. None of the co-opted places is “reserved’ in any way for “representatives” of either community, nor are we obliged to take anyone who expresses an interest in being a governor. We will only co-opt people who we believe fill gaps in our skills set, not just to put “bums on seats!”

That’s all very formal, but I can assure you that the work we undertake brings a great deal of satisfaction – we visit the schools regularly and talk to staff and children to get a deep understanding of what goes on in our schools.

I’d be happy to answer any questions about the Governing Body - grab me if I’m in school or give me a call.

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