

What is a School Governing Body?

All schools have a Governing Body, which is responsible for overseeing many of the strategic decisions of the school.

The Governing Body has a range of powers and duties laid down by various Education Acts. In the main these responsibilities relate to:

- Setting targets and promoting high standards of education.
- Setting the strategic framework within which the school operates.
- Being part of the schools senior leadership team and to be strategic in their thinking e.g. monitoring the progress of all groups of children, evaluating the impact of the school's curriculum and promoting good teaching and learning.
- Acting as a 'critical friend'. A 'critical friend' offers support, constructive advice, a sounding board for ideas, a second opinion on proposals and help where needed.
- However, a 'critical friend' may also challenge, ask questions, seek information, improve proposals and so arrive at the best solution for the pupils, staff and the whole community.
- Making decisions on the school's budget and staffing.
- Being accountable for the performance of the school to parents and the wider community.
- Ensuring that the curriculum for the school is balanced and broadly based.
- Ensuring the Health and Safety and Safeguarding policy and procedures are followed and embedded.
- Approval of all school policies.
- Making sure the school provides for all its pupils, including those with special educational needs.

The Governing Body works in close partnership with the Headteacher, staff and the Local Authority. Whilst the headteacher is responsible for the day to day running of the school, the governors are involved, for example with such things as staffing, curriculum, health and safety, safeguarding, school buildings and finance. It ensures the school functions well and maintains the proper range of academic and social objectives. The Governing Body works as a team with shared responsibilities. Governors never make decisions on their own, nor do they act as individuals.

Nelson St Philip's CE Primary is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary school which means that the majority of the members of the Governing Body are appointed by St John's with St Philip's Church Parochial Church Council and the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education.

Our Church School is an example of the Church working in the community and working for the community. Many Christians find that governorship offers an opportunity to serve the community and gain a great deal of satisfaction from bringing their own skill and experiences to the many issues that face the Church School.

If you are interested in finding out more, please see Mrs J Hartley in our school office.