



Reigate Parish Church Primary School

Background Information for Prospective Governors September 2017

Introduction to Reigate Parish Church Primary School

Our School Prospectus sets out the ethos and mission statement for the school. We are a Church of England Voluntary Aided (VA) school within the Southwark Diocese. Voluntary schools were established under the 1944 Education Act and they are very much part of the state sector of education, contributing significantly to the number of school places available.

Vision, Values and Aims

Our Vision

Reigate Parish Church Primary School: A trusting, respectful and caring place for children to reach their full potential, with the Christian faith and Christian values at our heart.

Our Values

Our guiding principles, which stem from our Christian faith, are: 'Faith, Hope & Love'. These are underpinned by 10 core values:

1. Respect: Valuing myself and other people, and treating them as I would like to be treated.
2. Friendship: Being thoughtful and kind, looking after each other through good times and hard times.
3. Honesty: Speaking the truth and acting truthfully.
4. Caring: Being concerned for and looking after myself, other people and God's world.
5. Perseverance: Always doing my best and not giving up.
6. Confidence: Knowing that I am special and loved and that I have something to offer to other people.
7. Responsibility: Being able to take charge of myself, other people or things. Being able to be trusted to do the right thing.
8. Forgiveness: Loving people even when they make mistakes. Always looking for the best in each other.
9. Trust: Being relied on to do the right thing and relying on each other to do the right thing.
10. Being Creative: Using our imagination, ideas and skills to make the world a better and more beautiful place.

Our Aims

We aim:

- To recognise, nurture and harness the strengths and talents of all children.
- To provide a broad, balanced and creative learning environment through excellence in teaching.
- To promote social, cultural, moral and spiritual development, supporting pupils and staff to become confident and responsible members of society.
- To establish an atmosphere in which each child has a positive self-image and where individual achievements are valued by all.
- To build self-confidence, self-esteem and independence in order to achieve success.
- To value curiosity, encourage a questioning attitude and promote a love of life-long learning.
- To grow from being an outstanding infant school into an outstanding primary school whilst maintaining our caring ethos, culture and atmosphere.
- Working in partnership with parents, to support their child's learning and development.

Role of the Governing Body

The governing body works in partnership with the headteacher, staff, parents and the Local Authority to raise standards of achievement in the school, led by the Chair of Governors. The main functions of the governing body are to:

- set the vision and strategic direction of school
- hold the headteacher to account for its educational performance
- ensure financial resources are well spent

Governor Responsibilities

Governing bodies are made up of representatives from different parts of the school and community. It involves a considerable commitment: the list of responsibilities can be daunting, but they are shared by the whole governing body. All governors are able to offer something whether it is a particular skill or from experience in different aspects of life and work. Equally important are the skills of being able to listen and offer encouragement and support to staff, pupils, parents and fellow governors. Each Governor commits to a four-year term of service.

Typically, there will be around six Full Governing Body meetings each academic year, one each half-term on average. Additionally, each Governor also sits on one of the two Committees (Resources or Children, Standards & Learning) with a further 4-6 meetings per academic year.

Children, Standards and Learning Committee

The role of the Children, Standards and Learning Committee is to ensure that the needs of individual children are met both in terms of their academic and personal development. The committee reviews the analysis of each year's SATs results, compares performance against published targets at each Key Stage and agrees future targets. This committee plays a major part in the curriculum related issues within the School Development Plan. Feedback from governor visits is made to the committee. The committee also has delegated responsibility for the review, approval and adoption of curriculum-based policies.

Resources Committee

The Resources Committee has responsibility for strategic oversight of the school's finances, staffing issues and premises issues, including Health & Safety. The committee receives an update at every meeting on the current financial position of the school. The committee is involved in formulating and approving the draft budget and associated expenditure plans each year before they are presented to the full governing body for adoption. This committee also agrees the annual staffing structure, which is developed to ensure children's needs are fully met.

Governors Fund

Every year, parents are asked to contribute an amount towards the Governors Fund which help meet the obligations of the school over and above those covered by central Government funding. The Governors work with the Headteacher to manage the use of the Governors Fund to ensure the school gets maximum value from the investments.

Governor Development

As governors, we have a duty to ensure that training and other professional development opportunities are made available to Teachers and other staff in schools. This reflects the constantly changing nature of education and is necessary to ensure that our teachers and classroom support staff are fully up to date with the latest developments and thinking in schools. Similarly, it is vital that as governors we take our responsibilities seriously and ensure that our commitment to the children in our school extends to ensuring that we keep our own professional development up to date.

As a school, we buy into the Babcock 4S training package and this entitles all governors to attend Induction training and any other course mentioned in the Babcock 4S directory, a copy of which will be sent to you as part of the welcome pack, at no charge to the school or individual governors.

Alternatively, there are E-learning modules available including:

- Safeguarding – The Governors Role
- Governors' visits to School
- Monitoring & Evaluation – The Governing Body's Role
- Health & Safety
- Looked after children
- Roles & Responsibilities of School Governors

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Governors section of the website at <http://reigate-parish.org.uk/governors/what-is-a-governing-body/>, or alternatively arrange for a conversation with one or more of the Governing Body via the School office.