

Everyone has heard of school governors, everyone knows that they are there, but it can feel that it is a very separate group of people; meeting in the evenings and never being part of the real life of the school. Much like the cleaners, we sweep in when all is quiet and dark and do our jobs, unnoticed most of the time. At least that's what I thought before I became a governor, but I am delighted to say that I was wrong!



I am a relatively new governor, just approaching the end of my first year in post. In that time I have been involved in both the Resources and the Teaching & Learning committees, gaining a full understanding of how the school runs. As a Year 4 parent myself, it has been an eye-opening journey, seeing the level of bureaucracy that surrounds the jobs of the senior leadership team in order to demonstrate the school's achievements and compliance for so many different stakeholders, and to see how well the school is run - with such a strong focus on your children and their experiences - despite huge budget constraints.

My background is in charity finance, so I am well used to working in non-profit environments where public money must be stringently accounted for. Going forward into my second year, I remain a member of the Resources sub-committee as well as the Full Governing Board, and will now be focussing on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision at Oakfield. As governors we each have a responsibility for certain areas of education provision, be it a specific subject from the curriculum or the overall learning of a year group.

So going back to my opening statement, I know that governors are in school on a regular (daytime!) basis, meeting staff, meeting pupils and even meeting parents when we can. We are all passionate about Oakfield Junior School, our children and their futures, so please be assured that we are working very hard on your behalf to cement the excellent work of Mrs Willemse and her team to ensure that this 'mighty oak' continues to grow.

Alison Hunt, School Governor, October 2019