

## **Dear Parents, Carers, Nursery School Staff Team and Friends of Usworth Colliery Nursery School,**

I am writing to introduce myself as the Chair of Governors at Usworth Colliery Nursery School. My name is Malgorzata Sieranska and I have been part of the governing body since February 2017 when I was appointed as a co-opted governor when my children attended nursery.

At a Governing Body meeting in November 2019 I was elected as a new Chair of Governors. Amanda Robson, the previous Chair was an exceptional and excellence Chair of Governors and I am very sorry she could not work with us any longer. We are grateful for her implemented great improvements to our nursery school.

I am a very pleased to inform you that Suzanne Jobson, a nursery parent is our our Vice-Chair. Suzanne is a very dedicated member of our Governing Body and I am sure we will be very successful in working together.

### **How we work**

The Governing Body has three specific roles these are:

- To be strategic
- To act as critical friend in the development of the school
- To be accountable to the whole school community.

There are currently 10 governors at Usworth Colliery Nursery School who are appointed through various routes. There are staff governors, parent governors, who are elected by the parents themselves, and co-opted governors who are people from our community that can bring skills to the Governing Body to contribute to the Nursery School. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body itself. We do not get involved in the day-to-day operation of the school, as this is the responsibility of the teaching and management staff.

We are always keen to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming a governor and of course, if you have any questions or feedback please contact the school office.

The governing body has established a number of committees. We meet as a Full Governing Body every term. The Governing Bodies committees also meet together every term or when needed to review and discuss the details of the school life. These committees cover:

- Curriculum, Progress and Attainment Committee
- Resources Committee (Finance, Permissions, Health & Safety and General Staffing)
- Personnel Committee
- Personnel Appeals/ Complaints Committee
- Headteacher Performance Management.

I think that the most important thing to note is that Governors are a team, not a collection of individuals or groups with separate agendas. However much we may differ in our opinions and experiences we are united by our commitment to the nursery school and the responsibility we share for the nursery school's long term success.

Should you wish to contact me, please do so by first contacting our Headteacher Miss Angela Graham or the nursery school office.

I look forward to working in the voluntary position as a Chair of Governors and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Parent/ Carers and their Children, Nursery School Staff Team, Nursery Governors for your continued support and commitment to our Nursery and I am sure we can be very successful in working together to make Usworth Colliery Nursery School an Outstanding Nursery School. Kind regards,

*Mrs Malgorzata Sieranska*

**Chair of Governors**

## GOVERNOR LEARNING WALKS / MONITORING VISITS

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A learning walk is an opportunity for governors to observe school life in action and monitor an aspect or aspects of the school development plan (SDP).

Governor learning walks usually involve a group of governors who had been tasked with a specific area to monitor.

Governors are working closely with the Senior Leadership Team to move the school forward, and to build on previous success. We are all extending our knowledge of the school through learning walks, updating school policies on a regular basis, and intend to monitor aspects of School Development Plan.

On our last learning walk we have been monitored 'Displays, classrooms and the outdoor area.

There are some examples of things that stood out for governors on the learning walk visit:

*'What stood out was how much effort that all the staff have made to accommodate the children, help them feel at home and to be happy and safe'.*

*'The outside play area I thought was really good and it was evident that the children liked playing outside'.*

*'Children were engaged in their playing outdoors. Staff members were talking to children's at children's level, everyone was happy in the garden. There was a feeling of wellbeing and a sense that the children enjoy spending their time at nursery'.*

*'What stood out for me is the fact how big school nursery areas are and that it is maybe not easy to organise all rooms and displays and keep them up to date, tidy and nice'.*

Many thanks to all staff members, who contributed to the layout and displays. As a governor and as a parent, I really appreciate your very hard work. Hope with time and work all nursery areas develop to future outstanding standards.

*Malgorzata Sieranska*

**Chair of Governors**