

Being a School Governor

I have been a Parent Governor at Wychwood School for 18 months, most of which has been spent on a steep learning curve getting to grips with the various committees, procedures and particular terminology that all contribute to a well-run Governing board and school. Having two children, aged four and seven, at Wychwood School, when the opportunity arose to be a Governor I felt that the chance to help and contribute to the local school was too good to turn down.

Serious Respect

My admiration and respect for all concerned in our children's education has increased tenfold since I took the plunge. Targets, measures and assessments all have their important place within the fabric of education but they are the means to an end rather than the end in itself. Producing enthused, well-rounded children capable of reaching their potential is what it is all about - something I know all involved in Wychwood School strive for and truly believe.

To be honest I didn't really know precisely what a School Governor did before I became one. I knew they were

integral to the running of a thriving school but their exact roles, how the board was made up and the practicalities of what they actually do was somewhat of a mystery, and I guess this is true of most parents.

Cutting through the Mystique

Basically the overriding responsibility of the school's governing body is to ensure that it is run to promote pupil achievement by setting strategic direction and policies, approving the school budget, reviewing progress against objectives and appointing, supporting and, when appropriate, challenging the head teacher. None of the parent governors are teachers and we are not there to tell the staff what they should and should not be doing, but simply ensure that the school is working to an agreed plan and strategy and provide any support that is required.

The governing body does not just consist of parents but is made up of members of staff, local area and church, drawing knowledge and expertise from the entire community in which the school plays such an important role.

Jeremy Habberley

Worried about Facing Redundancy?

People in West Oxfordshire concerned about facing redundancy can find out where to seek help through an initiative from West Oxfordshire District Council.

The Council has produced a 'Facing Redundancy' fact sheet that sets out key sources of advice on issues such as employment rights, money worries and

finding another job.

The fact sheet will be widely available in the Council's reception areas, Jobcentre Plus, local libraries and doctors' surgeries.

The leaflet can also be downloaded from the Council's website at: www.westoxon.gov.uk