

Tickhill Estfeld Primary School



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Dear Parents and Carers,

After ten years of service on the Governing Body, our current Chair of Governors Zoe Whitaker, will step down from her role at the end of this term. I am therefore writing to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors at Estfeld. My name is Aimee Oakden and I have been part of the Governing Body since February 2017 when I was appointed as a Parent Governor; I have a son Finn now in year 3 and a daughter Skye in year 1. As part of my role I have taken on the position of Looked After Children Governor. I also have a particular interest in SEMH (social, emotional and mental health) and consider that pupils emotional well-being is an essential foundation if they are to make progress in their learning. I know that this is a view shared by other governors and school staff.

Though I consider my most important job to be that of mum to my two children, my background is working as a Social Worker in various settings with children and families. I currently work part time as an Independent Social Worker, with a focus on fostering and adoption. The knowledge and experience I have gained through my work translates very well to my role with Governors and will keep me very child-centred; ensuring children are kept at the forefront of all key decisions that Governors have to make and oversee.

The main role of the Governing Body at Estfeld is to be strategic (oversee plans, outcomes and finances) this includes three main functions which are:

- To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction (i.e. make sure plans for the year(s) ahead are in place and are clear and understood and that the spirit and culture of the school is shared)
- Hold the head teacher to account for the performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff (i.e. supporting and challenging the head in relation to the school results and quality of teaching)
- Oversee the financial performance of the school (i.e. making sure money is spent well)



As Governors we think of ourselves as a 'critical friend' which means that we are supportive of the school while at the same time questioning and querying choices and decisions that are made. As Governors we share many common objectives, one of which is to communicate with the wider school community; working in partnership with you as parents and carers as well as pupils and staff to ensure that every child can succeed and reach their full potential. This is an area I hope to promote further as part of my new role.

The daily running of the school is the responsibility of Miss Risley and the Senior Leadership Team; any queries in regard to this should be directed via the office to the relevant teacher, the head or assistant heads. We meet as a full Governing Body twice every term discussing various areas of strategic school life. The agendas for the meetings will be posted on the school notice boards and sent out via the school app/website prior to each meeting, the minutes from each meeting are also available via request from the school office. We are working together as a board to endeavour to make these more easily accessible to those who wish to see them and hope that shortly the minutes will also be available on the school website. If you have a concern, compliment or a point of view to share that you feel is relevant for the governors please let us know, we want to hear from you. We can be contacted via the school office directly or by e-mailing admin@estfeld.doncaster.sch.uk

I look forward to meeting many of you during the coming months, keeping you updated on any relevant changes and decisions that the governors make as well as the amazing achievements and outcomes that I am sure we will continue to see. I am committed to and very proud of our school and it's achievements; Estfeld is identified by the Local Authority as a 'self improving school' showing that the school works exceedingly hard and achieves outstanding outcomes, however it also recognises there are always areas to strive to improve and develop. I look forward to continue supporting the school over the coming months with it's continued development.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Zoe for the time she has given as Governor and Chair, her hard work and effort has been very much appreciated by the school and the Governing Board.

At this busy time of year and as school is now fully embracing the festive season, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year on behalf of all the Governors at Estfeld.

Aimee Oakden

