

Dorothy Stringer School

Governing Body

2017/18

Governing Body Core Functions

Extract from Governors Handbook January 2015

“The Department of Education has high expectations of governing bodies. They are the strategic leaders of our schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education. For maintained schools this is reflected in law, which states that the purpose of maintained school governing bodies is to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement for all.

In all types of schools, governing bodies should have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- * Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- * Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of all staff.
- * Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.”

Key Priorities 2017/18

Leadership & Management

- * Continue to tackle the causes of under performance of our disadvantaged students and ensure that robust strategies and interventions are in place so that the difference in performance no longer remains significant
- * Refresh, strengthen and maintain the 'Stringer Learning Culture' (SLC) so that we are more consistent in our approach and we ensure that the SLC routines and expectations remain a constant focus for staff students and parents
- * As a result of consultation with staff put in place strategies to reduce work load; alleviate stress; promote staff well being
- * Continue to support the development of the Pavilion and Downs Teaching School Alliance (PAD)

Key Priorities 2017/18

Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

- * Promote sharing of best practice in the classroom, with a particular focus on improving the learning experience for Disadvantaged Students.
- * Revisit assessment & feedback policy to promote good practice
- * Conduct Action Research to share effective strategies for home-learning
- * English and Maths teachers to design, plan and deliver English and Maths curriculum intervention, through the support centre, to identified students groups in KS3 and 4

Key Priorities 2017/18

Personal Development & Welfare

- * Attendance Team to review and revise the attendance plan targeting especially Disadvantaged Students whose attendance is below 95%
- * Further develop the alternative provision available for vulnerable students, to continue to reduce the level of Fixed Term Exclusions
- * Refresh routines for promoting behaviour for learning through the 'Stringer Learning Culture'. Develop a values-based behaviour ethos linked to SLC to eradicate low level disruption and thereby increase student progress with all staff.

Key Priorities 2017/18

Outcomes for Students

- * Continued focus on, and tracking of, progress for students not currently on track to achieve a positive progress 8 score, especially Disadvantaged Students and boys; ensure equal and appropriate intervention as required.
- * PP Champion to implement learning from the 'Challenge the Gap' and other projects to support key groups to progress well
- * Continue to reduce the difference between disadvantaged students and their peers by engaging parents, encouraging good attendance and helping students develop a positive attitude to their learning and school.

Categories of Governors

Parent Governors

Parents including carers of students are eligible to stand for election as governors. Other parents at the school elect parent governors. If insufficient parents stand for election the governing body may appoint parent governors. There are four positions for elected parent governors at Dorothy Stringer.

Staff Governors

Richard Bradford the Headteacher is a staff governor by virtue of his office. Other staff both teaching and support may become a staff governor as long as they are paid (volunteers do not qualify). The school staff elects one staff governor to the Governing Body.

Local Authority Governors

The Local Authority appoint highly skilled and experienced governors to schools to provide support to schools irrespective of any political affiliation or preference. The Local Authority recommend appointment of one Local Authority to the Governing Body.

Co-opted Governors

The Full Governing Body appoint a number of governors based on the skills and experience that they can bring to support the existing governors and/or to represent the local community. There are eight positions for co-opted governors at Dorothy Stringer.

Governing Body Membership



Martyn Allen
Parent Governor



Mick Baker
Co-opted Governor



Richard Bradford
Headteacher/Staff
Governor



Emma Farrell
Co-opted Governor



Alison Frost
Co-opted Governor



Les Gunbie
Parent Governor



Reg Hook
Co-opted Governor



Jennifer John
Co-opted Governor



Dick Knight
Co-opted Governor



Sue Middleton
Associate Member



Jenny Poore
Co-opted Governor



Alan Sanders
Co-opted Governor



Bronagh Shevlin
Staff Governor



Elaine Stoner
Co-opted Governor



Derek Swindells
Local Authority Governor



VACANCY
Parent Governor



Teresa Dee
Clerk to Governors

Terms of Office

| Governor | Type | Start of Term | End of Term | Appointed By |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Martyn Allen | Parent | 7/7/14 | 6/7/18 | Elected by Parents |
| Mick Baker | Co-opted | 1/7/14 | 30/6/18 | Governing Body |
| Richard Bradford | Headteacher | 1/9/11 | | Ex Officio |
| Emma Farrell | Co-opted | 1/7/14 | 30/6/18 | Governing Body |
| Alison Frost | Co-opted | 26/3/17 | 25/3/21 | Governing Body |
| Les Gunbie | Parent | 7/7/14 | 6/7/18 | Elected by Parents |
| Reg Hook | Co-opted | 1/7/17 | 30/6/18 | Governing Body |
| Jennifer John | Co-opted | 1/7/14 | 30/6/18 | Governing Body |
| Dick Knight | Co-opted | 18/1/16 | 17/1/20 | Governing Body |
| Jenny Poore | Co-opted | 1/7/14 | 30/6/18 | Governing Body |
| Alan Sanders | Co-opted | 1/7/14 | 30/6/18 | Governing Body |
| Bronagh Shevlin | Staff | 23/11/16 | 22/11/20 | Elected by Staff |
| Elaine Stoner | Co-opted | 1/7/14 | 30/6/18 | Governing Body |
| Derek Swindells | Local Authority | 1/7/14 | 30/6/18 | Local Authority Recommendation |

Past Governors

| Governor | Type | Start of Term | End of Term | Appointed By |
|---------------|--------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Jeremy Holtom | Staff | 1/9/13 | 22/11/16 | Elected by Staff |
| Sarah Windsor | Parent | 7/7/14 | 31/8/17 | Elected by Parents |

Martyn Allen – Parent Governor

I am a parent of a child in year 10. I live locally and within walking distance from the school. I have been in business as a Chartered Surveyor for over twenty years and have other legal qualifications in respect of the construction industry. I have also been an arbitrator and an expert witness in litigation matters.

I would like to support the school and all the people who work there. I believe that Dorothy Stringer is a very good school. I would like the school to take a prominent role in the local community and also be involved at an international level. I would like to increase and promote the facilities that the school can offer for all the pupils.

I have been involved with the Parent Fund raising committee at the school since 2011 and have helped to organise and arrange events for the purpose of raising money for the school and in particular the canteen. I would like to continue in this role as well as being a parent governor.

Mick Baker – Co-opted Governor

Retired. Previously Head of Lower School at Dorothy Stringer School then Deputy Head of a comprehensive school in Worthing (30 years).

I have been a Governor at Dorothy Stringer for a little over 10 years and have been a Governor at two other schools.

My two sons both attended Dorothy Stringer. I am also a Trustee of the school's outdoor centre at Dolawen in Wales.

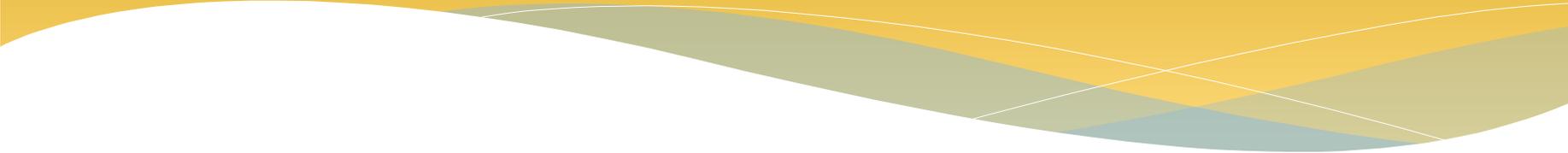
I would hope to support the school in maintaining its excellent standards.

Richard Bradford – Ex Officio Governor

Emma Farrell – Co-opted Governor

I've been a parent governor and now co-opted governor at Stringer for 8 years during which both my sons have gone through the school. I previously gained 8 years experience as a parent and local authority governor at Balfour Infants. I am a teacher and year group leader at Downs Junior school and so my particular interests as a school governor lie in teaching and learning - supporting and monitoring both student progress and wellbeing. I am also the designated Safeguarding governor and liaise with Giles Ward on this.

Alison Frost – Co-opted Governor



Les Gunbie – Parent Governor

I have twenty years experience working in charities in the field of international development and education for sustainability, and am keen to support the school in its aspiration to develop students' understanding of the wider world and the importance of effective environmental stewardship.

I currently work as a Learning Mentor at a primary school in Brighton. I strongly value the need for emphasising children's general well-being and happiness as the foundation for academic success. Children are individuals, and sometimes need different approaches to develop their abilities and to discover - and achieve - their aspirations.

One of the things that I appreciate so much about Dorothy Stringer is the opportunities that it provides for extra-curricular activities, and am keen to ensure that more opportunities are available to all.

My two children are in Year 9 at Dorothy Stringer. I aim to represent parents' and carers' views from across the whole school – and to bring those views to the attention of the governing body in its role as "critical friend" to the school - so please feel free to stop me and have a chat.

Reg Hook – Co-opted Governor

I worked in the print trade for nearly fifty years as a Finishing Works Manager and Client Representative and I hope that this experience has been of help during my 38 years as a Governor of Stringer as well as spending 30 years as a Governor of Downs Junior School including a period as Chair of Governors.

I spent 13 years as Chair of Governors and supported Trevor Allen as the School rose to be the most successful and popular School in the City, a position that Richard Bradford has cemented.

I also spent more than twenty years as Chair of the Buildings Committee, a period that involved the building of the Language Block, the Current Library Block and of course the P.F.I and in fact Ros Stephen and I are the only people in the City, plus Assoc. governor Nick Lomax who have been involved in this contract since its inception. I have also been involved in the Catering Extensions and the ATP negotiations.

I have also been involved in sport all this time, particularly athletics, and was a freelance journalist for the Argus and other Sussex Newspapers.

I have a strong interest in the Arts inc. Drama and have taken the Front of House pictures for more than 30 years.

Jennifer John – Co-opted Governor

I have worked in education for 40 years across the range from nursery to adult. Part of that Primary Years experience was as year group leader, SENCO, assessment coordinator and member of the LEA SATS audit team. My interests as a school governor continue in supporting and monitoring change and development for students and staff on both a pastoral and academic level.

My current specific interests lie in supporting the work of the special Needs Department and that of Sustainability education and initiatives on campus.

Dick Knight – Co-opted Governor

I became a Governor at Dorothy Stringer in 2015 following the opening of the school's all weather pitch, which had been facilitated by Albion in the Community, of which I was chairman until 2013. Under my leadership the club charity had developed a wide range of community services, including helping young people and the disadvantaged.

My business career was in advertising and marketing for 35 years. I was founder and chairman of a London ad agency which developed into a global group, and I spent a lot of my working life on airplanes and in New York. An American journalist once called me “a grizzled dean of British advertising”.

I turned my attention back to my home town in the mid-nineties when Brighton & Hove Albion – who I had supported since I was a boy – looked doomed under its deeply unpopular owners, and after an 18 months battle to remove them finally succeeded in taking over in 1997. I remained chairman for 12 years and steered the club from the bottom of the English Football League to the Championship, led the arduous but ultimately successful campaign for a new stadium, and created the sponsorship deal with American Express, paving the way for the club's rise to the Premier League.

I have been a Trustee of Martklets Hospice since 2010, was given an Honorary Degree from the University of Brighton in 2013, and in the same year was conferred as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Brighton and Hove.

Jenny Poore – Co-opted Governor

Dorothy Stringer has been part of my family's life since my eldest son became a student here in 2006. His brothers subsequently attended Stringer with the youngest leaving in summer 2017. I became a parent governor in 2010 and one of my first duties as a governor was playing a part in the appointment process for our current head teacher. I took up office as Chair of Governors in summer 2016 having served as a Vice Chair for the previous three years.

In my day job, I am a Human Resources Director for a large housing association. I have worked across a range of sectors including local, regional and national roles within Royal Mail as well as heading up Human Resources for Sussex Police. I worked within Further Education for ten years as Human Resources Director within three different colleges within Sussex. I have a passion for education and a strong working knowledge of the processes that supports this together with direct experience of the requirements of the Ofsted inspection framework.

Dorothy Stringer is a fantastic school that develops the minds and thinking of the whole young person and not just a focus on our academic achievement. As a governing body, we take our responsibilities seriously and do our utmost to support the Head Teacher and his team to deliver an inspirational teaching and educational experience to our young people that will give them a secure foundations for their chosen plans when they leave Dorothy Stringer for pastures new

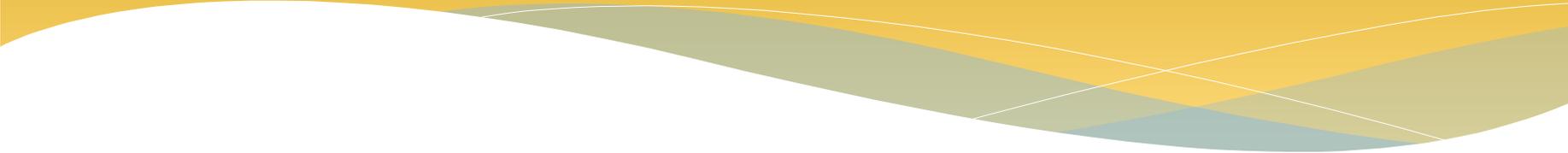
Alan Sanders – Co-opted Governor

I have been involved in education throughout my career; as a teacher at a range of secondary schools and head of department at a sixth form college; as a governor at four different schools and as a director of two educational charities.

I have two daughters, Gabby, who attended Dorothy Stringer between 2010-14, and Julia who is currently in Year 11.

My interests for the school include helping to ensure that it successfully serves the local community. I'm delighted that whilst a governor at Dorothy Stringer, I have been able to play a role in helping the school gain access to funding for the all weather pitch through the Football Foundation. This will not only be available for school use but also for local teams outside of school hours.

Bronagh Shevlin – Staff Governor



Elaine Stoner – Co-opted Governor

Dorothy Stringer has been part of my life as a student and an adult. I was a student here from 1979-1983 and I have also had the benefit of both my daughters attending and enjoying their time here.

I previously worked as a Service Improvement Manager for a large utility company and became an employee of the school in 2001. My role is HR/Administration Manager and I was appointed Staff Governor from 2010-2014 and have been a Co-opted Governor since 2014.

Dorothy Stringer is a great school and as a member of staff I feel I am privileged to work with so many colleagues whose aim is to provide a safe and happy environment for our students to prosper not only academically but also as young considerate adults.

Being a member of the Governing Body enables me to understand the bigger picture and is an interesting insight into the leadership and management required in running a large successful school. I am aware of the external influences and considerations involved and I am pleased to be part of the team involved with decision making to ensure that Dorothy Stringer continues to provide the education and support for our students to achieve their chosen aspirations.

Derek Swindells – Local Authority Governor

I have been engaged for many years as a LA Governor and have enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to the work of Comart, Downs Junior School and now, Dorothy Stringer School

I remain energetic, enthusiastic and committed to supporting school improvement and since being elected Chair have worked with colleagues to appraise our own performance and develop a route map for future work towards being 'outstanding'

The school has recently been inspected by Ofsted when Inspectors commented on the *'incisive engagement of the Governing Body in supporting the work of what is deemed to be a 'Good 'school'*

Sue Middleton – Associate Member

After forty years of teaching I retired in 2015.

I started my teaching career in 1974, as a P.E. teacher in a prep school in Eastbourne, moving to Dorothy Stringer school in 1975. My career developed through PSHE and Careers, becoming head of department (1993). I also established a BTEC City and Guilds pre vocational course (mid 80's) and the Record of Achievement scheme (1988). I then become part of the senior team, initially as an Assistant Head teacher (2006) and finally Deputy Head teacher (2010). As deputy head my main duties were general organisation and health and safety. I continue to have a strong interest in sport, as well as the arts.

I have also continued to work with the school on developing links with the alumni and some community groups.

Teresa Dee – Clerk to Governors

I have been supporting Dorothy Stringer's Governing Body as a professional clerk since March 2013.

I have worked with many other Schools and am currently the Clerk to Governors for 6 schools in Brighton & Hove.

My responsibility is to ensure the efficient functioning of the Governing Body by providing:

- * Administrative and organisational support.
- * Guidance to ensure that the Governing Body works in compliance with the appropriate legal and regulatory framework, and understands the potential consequences for non compliance.
- * Advice on procedural matters relating to the operation of the board.
- * Designing structures and procedures for the sound governance of the school.

To contact Governors email - teresa.dee@dorothy-stringer.co.uk

School Development Governor Links

| School Development Area | Linked Governors |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Leadership and management | Alan Sanders, Dick Knight, Jenny Poore |
| Quality of teaching, learning and assessment | Emma Farrell, Alison Frost |
| Personal development, behaviour and welfare | Mick Baker, Jennifer John, Derek Swindells |
| Outcomes for Students | Les Gunbie, Emma Farrell, Alison Frost |

Governing Body Infrastructure

| Operational Areas | Lead Governors |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Buildings & Resources | Reg Hook, Derek Swindells, Martyn Allen |
| Community | Dick Knight, Sue Middleton |
| Equality & Diversity | Martyn Allen, Jennifer John |
| Finance | Mick Baker, Reg Hook, Bronagh Shevlin, Derek Swindells |
| Governor Development, Recruitment & Evaluation | Jenny Poore, Alan Sanders, Mick Baker |
| Health & Safety | Mick Baker, Sue Middleton, Derek Swindells |
| Performance, Pay & Staffing | Jenny Poore, Elaine Stoner |
| Disadvantaged Students | Alison Frost, Les Gunbie |
| Safeguarding | Emma Farrell |
| Special Educational Needs | Jennifer John |

Core Business Meeting Dates

| Date of Meeting | Focus of Meeting |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 18 th September 2017 | Outcomes for Students |
| 11 th December 2017 | Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment |
| 12 th March 2018 | Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare |
| 2 nd July 2018 | Leadership & Management |

Strategic Priorities and Projects Meetings

Dates Scheduled

6th November 2017

5th February 2018

21st may 2018

Declarations of Interest

Dorothy Stringer Governing Body Declarations of Interest Register 2017/18

| Name of Governor | Date | Name of Business/Organisation | Nature of Business | Nature of Interest |
|------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Martyn Allen | 27/10/17 | Nil return | | |
| Mick Baker | 17/09/17 | Dorothy Stringer School | School | Family members associated with the School. |
| | 17/09/17 | Dorothy Stringer School | School | Casual volunteer for driving minibus and DIY |
| | 17/09/17 | The Dolawen Trust | Activity Centre | Trustee |
| | 17/09/17 | Patcham High School | School | Associate member |
| Richard Bradford | 06/11/17 | Hove Park School | School | Governor |
| Emma Farrell | 18/09/17 | Downs Junior School | School | Employee - Year 4 Leader |
| | 18/09/17 | NUT | Trade Union | Member |
| Alison Frost | 18/09/17 | Varndean College | 6th Form College | Employee - Head of pastoral/ curriculum for science & maths |
| | 18/09/17 | NUT | Trade Union | Member |
| Les Gunbie | 11/09/17 | St Luke's Primary School | School | Employee - Learning Mentor |
| Reg Hook | 18/09/17 | Nil return | | |
| Jennifer John | 07/07/17 | Big Nature | Charity | Trustee |
| Dick Knight | 15/09/17 | Nil return | | |
| Sue Middleton | 18/09/17 | Nil return | | |
| Jenny Poore | 18/09/17 | Southern Housing Group | Housing | Employee - HR Director |
| | 18/09/17 | Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development | Professional Body | Member and Fellow (FCIPD) |
| Alan Sanders | 30/10/17 | BISS | Summer school | Wife works for BISS in partnership with the school |

Attendance at Meetings 2016/17

| Governor | Meetings Attended | % Attended | Date Stepped Down |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Martyn Allen | 4 | 80% | Current Governor |
| Mick Baker | 4 | 80% | Current Governor |
| Richard Bradford | 5 | 100% | Current Governor |
| Emma Farrell | 3 | 60% | Current Governor |
| Alison Frost | 5 | 100% | Current Governor |
| Les Gunbie | 5 | 100% | Current Governor |
| Jeremy Holtom | 1 | 100% | 23/11/16 |
| Reg Hook | 5 | 100% | Current Governor |
| Jennifer John | 3 | 60% | Current Governor |
| Dick Knight | 5 | 100% | Current Governor |
| Jenny Poore | 5 | 100% | Current Governor |
| Alan Sanders | 3 | 60% | Current Governor |
| Bronagh Shevlin | 4 | 100% | Current Governor |
| Elaine Stoner | 5 | 100% | Current Governor |
| Derek Swindells | 4 | 80% | Current Governor |
| Sarah Windsor | 3 | 60% | 31/8/17 |
| Whole Governing Body | 64 | 85% | |