



## Elm Grove Primary School – vacancy for a Co-opted Governor

Elm Grove is a welcoming and inclusive school, with a strong sense of community and a commitment to improving outcomes for all children. The school was rated as Good at our recent Ofsted inspection.

At Elm Grove we have a strong and committed group of governors. As a board, we actively engage with the school, to enable us to effectively provide support and challenge to the headteacher and the leadership team.

We are looking for someone with enthusiasm, time and flexibility to contribute effectively to the role. You do not need to be an expert in education: our board is made up of governors with a range of experience and expertise. We are keen to encourage those from under-represented groups to apply, such as black and minority ethnic backgrounds, in order to reflect the diversity of the pupils in our school.

Knowledge of one of the following areas is desirable, but not essential:

- stakeholder engagement
- human resources
- premises
- health & safety

It is essential that you have a willingness to learn, and a commitment to the welfare and education of the children at Elm Grove.

The Full Governing Board meets approximately four times a year, and we currently have three committees which meet termly, as well as a number of monitoring roles allocated to individual governors.

All governors are expected to attend the high quality local authority and online training to help them develop in their role.

Attached is a short pamphlet detailing experiences of some of our current and former governors.

If you are interested in joining the Elm Grove Governing Board, please contact Anna Johnson, Clerk to Governors: [annajohnson@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:annajohnson@elmgrove.brighton-hove.sch.uk).



## Being a Governor for Elm Grove Primary School

The governing body often needs volunteers to work for the school: parents/carers, grandparents, friends and people from the community with specific skills. Here, three of our governors give you an idea of what is involved.

### Emily Milner (Parent Governor)

Being a governor means knowing as much about Elm Grove as you can, knowing its strengths & weaknesses, understanding the decisions made by the school & asking the right questions to explore these decisions further.

It does involve a significant amount of unpaid time & commitment to attend meetings, read documentation, visit the school, write up reports, do training and attend key school events or governor conferences. However, with this comes the chance to develop new skills, meet pupils, staff & other governors from across the city, and get to hear some inspirational speakers involved in education.

For me, the rewards of this are the feeling of giving something back to the school that gives so much to my children. To see more of what happens behind the scenes has increased my respect for the staff & those in education who do their best in the face of financial & political challenges.

### Kieron Lillis (Co-opted Governor)

A co-opted governor is someone who brings certain skills which contribute to the successful governance of the school. I have responsibility for buildings and grounds as my background is building maintenance. In a very short time, I gained an understanding of the building & got to know the members of teaching & support staff faced with the challenges of maintaining a building constructed in 1893!

I was, perhaps, naïve to think my input would be restricted to this area alone. Being a governor introduces you to many aspects of school life & the education system. It does take time to get used to all the acronyms but you soon become familiar with the common terms. Fellow governors & teachers are always happy to help guide you through this unfamiliar language. I have never found myself in a position where I've been made to feel like I've asked a stupid question.

Being a governor does involve a degree of commitment, but once you get engaged you see the value of the time you dedicate to this wonderful school. I've got to know the headteacher, deputy heads, governors, support & administrative staff. On the occasions I do the school drop-off, I no longer send my children into a school building. I know, first hand, I'm sending them off into a community of people passionate about providing the best possible environment for all those pupils to thrive in a safe, vibrant, exciting place of learning.



### **Christine McNeill (Co-opted Governor)**

As governors we all bring different experiences, skills & viewpoints to the work of the governing body. Some governors have a very close association with the school, their children being pupils at the school & living within the local community. Others are drawn from outside the immediate community.

Prior to becoming a co-opted Governor at Elm Grove I had no personal links with the school. However, I had several years' experience of being a governor at another local primary school &, before I retired, a background in primary education. It is this experience & knowledge that I bring to the governing body.

It has been a pleasure to work with both the dedicated, talented staff & governors at Elm Grove. They are all committed to the children, school and community & work well with the other local schools. I have found working on two governing bodies an excellent way to share & develop good ideas & practices.

The role is demanding & time consuming but it is also very stimulating & rewarding. It enables me to feel I am contributing something to the community but also to the future through the children of Elm Grove.

### **Governor Commitments**

- Governors commit to attending full governing body & committee meetings, visits to the school, training & other events.
- Parent governors are elected to bring the voice of a parent to the governing body, not to represent the parents.
- Governors are responsible for strategic plans, aims & policies not the operational aspects of the school.
- Governors monitor & evaluate the school as a 'critical friend' with support & challenge to ensure the school is accountable.
- Governors work as a team, act in the best interests of the school, respect governing body decisions & confidentiality.

**For more information, please look at the school website governors 'page & latest newsletter;**  
<http://www.thelifeccloud.net/schools/ElmGrovePrimarySchool/>

**If you are interested in becoming a governor, contact the Clerk to Governors Anna Johnson:**  
[Annajohnson@elmgrove.brightonhove.sch.uk](mailto:Annajohnson@elmgrove.brightonhove.sch.uk)