

Introducing the Governors

The Clarendon Governing Body is a group of volunteers who believe in the school's vision and mission statement and give up their time to work with the headteacher and staff to meet those aims and to ensure excellent provision for our pupils and the wider school community. There are 11 of us altogether with representatives from parents; from the local authority; from teaching staff; from the support assistants as well as from the wider local community (see our pen portraits below). We aim to recruit governors with a wide range of skills and experience to support the work of the governing body.

It is the headship team and senior leadership team who are the people actually responsible for the day to day to running of the school. Our job, working as a group and together with senior staff, is to set the strategy for the school. We then ensure that all the plans and policies are in place so that Clarendon really is a place of learning for everyone and continues to improve in providing the very best for our pupils. We are also there to act as a 'critical friend' to Mr Kipps and his team both by supporting them in all they do and by asking questions and challenging them to keep improving.

We hear about how the school is working and how pupils are progressing in both full meetings and specialist committees that look at 'Pay and Personnel'; Pupil Achievement and Curriculum'; Pupil's Pastoral Wellbeing'; 'Finance' and also 'Premises and Health and Safety'. We also visit the school as regularly as possible on both ordinary days and for special events so that we know it really well. Many of us have a special responsibility for some area of school life to find out about and report back to everyone else.

Recently we have formed a multi academy trust (The Auriga Academy Trust) with Strathmore our sister Richmond special school to share and build further on the skills and experience across the two schools. Clarendon and Strathmore will both continue with their distinctive specialisms, ethos and communities with a significant amount of independence. However, we believe that there is work we can do together that can improve even further the provision for our own pupils, provide opportunities for our staff and to support the wider, growing population of young people with SEND and their families. As part of that work there is a joint project group with the wider Auriga Academy Trust supporting the opening of a new Free School, Capella House for pupils specifically with Speech, Language and Communication Needs.

To find out more about either Clarendon Governors and their work or the Auriga Academy Trust and the new governance structure do follow the trust links in this governance section. Alternatively, to contact the governors directly the co-chairs Primesh Kalia and Keith Tysoe can be reached by e mail (prem.kalia@hotmail.com or keith.tysoe@lbhf.gov.uk) or via the school office.