

Betty Layward Primary School – Governors 2020-2021



The role of the governors is to have a strong focus on the following core strategic functions: –

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
 - Ensuring there is strategic plan for the school focusing on long term development and improvement;
 - Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
 - Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent;
 - Support the Head Teacher and staff in the achievement of all this;
- The day-to-day management of the school is the responsibility of the Head Teacher and senior leadership team.

There are four types of governors: –

- Local authority governors appointed by the Hackney Learning Trust;
 - Parent Governors elected by the parent community;
 - Co-opted Governors appointed by the governing body to provide a specific skill required by the school;
 - Staff governors. One being the Head Teacher and the other being appointed by the staff of the school;
- The length of terms for all Governors is four years. The Chair of the Governors and Vice Chair of Governors are appointed by the Governors on an Annual basis.

The full Governing Body meets once every term. The function of the Governing Body is supported by the following committees that meet once every half term.

The intention of committees is to allow joint working on areas that matter most to developing the school delivering our vision to 'Discover Learning'. The Link Governor role enables Governors with relevant skills to partner with the appropriate members of the school to cover the area in the appropriate detail.

People and Ethos Committee <i>To ensure school staff are supported, developed, challenged and rewarded to deliver the best possible opportunity for the children to 'Discover Learning'.</i>		
Areas covered	Governor Members	Staff Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership & People Management Safeguarding, Well Being, Behaviour and Attendance Engagement with Parents 	Adam Roland (Chair) Bill Sheasgreen Anand Trip Jennifer Elvidge	Jessica Bailey Salwa Ghanem
Curriculum and Achievement Committee <i>To ensure we deliver our school vision to 'Inspire, develop and nurture every child to have the confidence to learn', The Betty Layward Way.</i>		
Areas covered	Governor Members	Staff Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early years Core curriculum Extended curriculum Performance data Inclusion – incorporating PPG and SENCO 	Barbara Riddell (Chair) Francisco De La Mora Steve Halsey	Jessica Bailey Salwa Ghanem Cat Gibbons Briony Blow Michael Buck
Resources Committee <i>To ensure the school community has the best possible funding, equipment and environment.</i>		
Areas covered	Governor Members	Staff Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Infrastructure and services including buildings, playground, etc. Performance management and recruitment Communications 	Duncan Wilson / Jennifer Elvidge (Chair) Steve Halsey Adam Roland	Jessica Bailey Rebecca Day



The current governing body is as follows: –

Governor category	Governors	Date of appointment	Start of current term	End of term	Link Governor Role
Chair of Governors	Steve Halsey	September 2018	September 2018	September 2022	Finance Committee Curriculum Committee SEND/ Inclusion PPG/ Inclusion
Vice Chair	Barbara Riddell	March 2018	March 2018	March 2022	Teaching & Learning Committee-Chair EYFS
Co-opted Governor	Anand Trip	January 2017	January 2017	January 2021	Safeguarding
Parent Governor	Jenny Söderström-Grawe	September 2019	September 2019	September 2023	Parent Governor
Parent Governor	Jennifer Elvidge	September 2019	September 2019	September 2023	Parent Governor Finance Committee-Co-chair
Co-opted Governor	Adam Roland	June 2018	June 2018	June 2022	People and Ethos Committee-Chair Behaviour & Wellbeing Attendance
Co-opted Governor	Francisco De La Mora	April 2018	April 2018	April 2022	Parent Governor
Co-opted Governor	Duncan Wilson	April 2016	April 2016	April 2020	Finance Committee-Co-chair
Local Authority Governor	Steve McConaghy	April 2020		April 2024	
Staff Governor	Jessica Bailey	September 2016	N/A	Headteacher	
Associate Governor	Bill Sheasgreen	September 1999			

No Governors have declared any conflicts of interest

Governors	Profile
Steve Halsey	<p>I am proud and honoured to have been asked to be the Chair of the Board of Governors at Betty Layward. I joined the governing body as a co-opted member in September 2018 and I have enjoyed being the chair of the finance committee and a member of several other committees during my tenure. I have 30 years' experience of working in HR, finance, procurement, and strategy and policy development in large organisations, experience that I hope will be of benefit to the school.</p> <p>I moved to Stoke Newington in 1997 and my children first attended Betty Layward in 2003. I aspire to ensuring that every child at Betty Layward benefits from a positive, ambitious, creative and vibrant school community. I have followed the journey the school has been on for nearly two decades and have no doubt that the many challenges that the education sector and Betty Layward face, will be overcome by our committed school community, that has one objective at the heart of everything it does, providing an excellent education for our children.</p>
Anand Trip	<p>I am a parent of two children at Betty Layward. We moved to Stoke Newington from Finsbury Park in 2010. Since then, I have seen Betty Layward go through difficult times but have been impressed by the progress that has been made.</p> <p>I work as a hospital doctor which involves teaching medical students and postgraduate doctors. I am an educational supervisor for doctors in training. This has given me experience of education albeit in a different setting. I have strong management skills and my interactions with patients and their families gives me an understanding of the sensitive and confidential nature of teacher/child/parent relationships.</p> <p>I believe strongly in state primary and secondary education. Working in a NHS hospital, I am familiar with the issues facing public sector organisations, particularly the financial restraints that are predicted to hit Hackney schools. I have great respect for the staff, management team and governors of Betty Layward who have worked extremely hard to improve the school. I would like to assist them to continue this work but I am also not afraid to challenge the school in areas where improvement is needed.</p>
Duncan Wilson	<p>I have lived in Highbury and Hackney for the past 6 years and wanted to use my skills and experience to support local schools to deliver an excellent education and help every child develop to be confident, happy and respectful. Since becoming a co-opted governor in April 2016, I have focused on helping the school from a financial and commercial perspective as a qualified accountant. I have also supported in other areas with my experience in procurement, business strategy and operations, technology, analytics and programme management. I feel Betty Layward is a unique school and I want to help cultivate the culture and atmosphere that allows the children to flourish.</p>
Bill Sheasgreen	<p>I've lived in Stoke Newington since 1982, and have been a school governor since 1988, initially as a parent at William Patten and then [and still] at Stoke Newington School where I was Chair for 11 years [1993-2004]. I've been a governor of Betty Layward School since day one in 1999. I've been on the executive of the Hackney School Governors Association [HASGA} since its inception. I've had several 'link' roles at BL, but my chief link role now is with the wider community of schools and governing bodies. Our chief task remains improving the quality of teaching and learning, making Betty Layward, and keeping it, an 'outstanding' school.</p>
Barbara Riddell	<p>Since the first of my 2 grandchildren joined the nursery nearly 5 years ago, I have enjoyed the warmth of the Betty Layward welcome and getting to know the school. My professional background has been as an adviser to Charitable Trusts and as a policy consultant in the Early Years. For many years I was the Chair of governors of various primary schools in Islington and have been a trustee of various organisations involved with children and families. At a time when the government places such</p>

	reliance on testing I am delighted to be able to support a school that does not assume that only what is measurable is valuable and where creativity and close relations with families are promoted and encouraged.
Francisco de la Mora	We are a Mexican family living in Stoke Newington since 2014. Now, my 5-year-old son is about to finish reception class at Betty Layward and we are very grateful with the school for creating a warm environment for him over this important first year of school. I joined the governing body early this year and I am very happy to have the opportunity to participate closely in the School Community. My background is in publishing and illustration, and I hope I can bring some good into the great work that is already happening at the school.
Adam Roland	Both my children attended Betty Layward and my son is in his final year at the school. I have been actively involved in Betty Layward life chairing the PTFA for several years, organising fairs and events, reading with children, and accompanying and helping staff on trips and sports events. I am an FA-qualified football coach and run a sports marketing and PR business. I was honoured to be co-opted onto the Board of Governors and I hope my skills, both in a business, but also voluntary, capacity will continue to help the school in its upward trajectory. I think it's vital all children are given an equal chance to learn and importantly enjoy their school life. I've lived in Stoke Newington for 18 years and play an active role with other local community projects. Unfortunately I haven't yet won the Dads race!
Jenny Söderström-Grawe	I became a governor in June of 2019 and have kids in key stage one at Betty Layward. Just like every other parent at our school, I want the best for my children. I want them to be happy and confident in their school environment, so they are open and willing to learn and grow in order to become the very best they can be. I believe Betty Layward creates a fantastic environment to achieve just that. In the last couple of years, I have been very active within the PTFA, not only as a class rep, but also organising jumble sales, class picnics and I enjoyed being part of the Project Playground Team and am very excited to play a part of the governing body and lend my support to the school where needed.
Jennifer Elvidge	I was really excited to join the governing body as the school has had such a positive impact on my children who are currently in Years 1 & 2. I'm keen to make sure every child has the best conditions in which they may start their educational journey and am looking forward to contributing to the strong sense of community surrounding our school. I have over 8 years professional experience in Finance and hope to assist the school within the Finance committee and in making Betty Layward be the best school for our children.
Steve McConaghy	Steve is the Local Authority Governor for Betty Layward Primary School. Steve is both a chartered architect and construction project manager who has extensive experience in the education sector. He has been involved in the construction of significant building projects for schools, universities, central and local government as well and various other sectors, from housing to bridges. As the LA Governor for Betty Layward, Steve will bring his education procurement and delivery expertise to the Governing Board.

If you have any comments or questions for the Governors please email:

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