



**Beaumont  
Primary  
School**

A Learning Community Partnership

# **Board of Governors Beaumont Primary School**

**A guide for parents, pupils,  
employees, and visitors**

**Spring 2020**

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## **Who are they?**

The Board of Governors for Beaumont Primary School is currently composed as follows:

- 4 Co-opted Governors (1 t.b.a.)
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- Headteacher
- 1 Staff Governor
- 5 Parent Governors

**Mr Mike Fisher (Chair):** elected March 2016. Mr Fisher retired in December 2014 after teaching for over 36 years, the last 21 as Assistant and Deputy Headteacher at a Croydon secondary school. During his teaching career he held a variety of roles, with both curriculum and pastoral responsibilities, including being the designated officer for child safety, combining this with a responsibility for 'vulnerable' learners i.e. looked-after children, young carers and those on Pupil Premium. Since October 2015 he has been working as a volunteer two afternoons a week at Beaumont Primary School. Mike has been married for 37 years and has two grown-up daughters.

**Revd Jeremy Groombridge CB (Vice Chair):** elected January 2015. Revd Jeremy Groombridge is a Church of England minister serving at All Saints' Church Sanderstead. He retired as a Senior Civil Servant in 2013 after 38 years' service during which he fulfilled a variety of roles including private secretary to two Cabinet Ministers, senior policy adviser on employment and welfare reform and - for the last ten years of his career - as Executive Director of Jobcentre Plus. He was awarded CB (Companion of the Order of the Bath) in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2008. Since 2015 Jeremy has been a trustee of the nearby Reedham Children's Trust. Jeremy has lived close to the school for 27 years; he is married to Sandra and they have 3 sons in their twenties and thirties.

### **Headteacher and Staff Governor:**

**Mrs Anne Morrell** as Headteacher is the ex-officio on the Board of Governors and was appointed to Headteacher in January 2019.

**Mr Chris Hatton** has been the Staff Teaching Governor since September 2014.

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### **Co-opted Governors:**

**Mr Bill Burton:** elected December 2017. Mr Burton has worked in the training and development field for the last 20 years and specialises in working with senior teams of SMEs. He spent 10 years as a teacher of English as a Foreign Language to adults both in the UK and Spain which culminated in running a Nord Anglia summer school in London with responsibility for student safety, teaching performance and organising outings. From 2013 – 2015 Mr Burton volunteered as a Young Enterprise business coach and was assigned to Dartford Grammar School for Girls where he mentored several start-up businesses, all of which made a healthy profit. Mr Burton and his wife currently run a franchise of Dale Carnegie Inc. which is a global training company specialising in training adults in the areas of communication, presentation, sales, leadership and people development. They work with businesses, charities and county councils all over the south-east of England. Both of his children attended Beaumont and are now at secondary school.

**Mrs Mary Escott:** elected July 2016. Mrs Escott has taught in primary schools in Croydon, Lambeth and Wandsworth. At various points in her teaching career she has held responsibility for Maths, English and Religious Education, and she has also undertaken the role of deputy head teacher. She is an experienced governor, elected in different schools as parent-governor and teacher-governor. Mrs Escott has previously worked in the voluntary sector, and continues to enjoy voluntary work. She is married and has a son and daughter – both now adult.

**Mr Gordon Smith:** elected December 2015. Mr Smith is the CEO of The Collegiate Trust, a multi-academy trust working with schools in Croydon and Crawley. He has held leadership roles in London schools for almost 30 years, 14 of them as a Head or Principal. He also has wide-ranging experience as a governor from primary level through to higher education.

### **Local Authority Governor:**

**Mr Noel Nineham** is the LA Governor and has represented Croydon on the Board of Governors for the school since March 2014. A retired Bank Manager, Noel has been a resident of Croydon for 49 years, the last 14 residing in Purley near to Beaumont Primary. He has undertaken voluntary work since the 2011 Croydon Riots after which he had a role as a Charity Worker Co-ordinator for Croydon Volunteers Centre, now known as Team Croydon. He had a role at London 2012 at both the Olympics and the Paralympics where he helped oversee the Staff and Volunteers at the Aquatic Centre.

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## **Parent Governors:**

**Mr John Harris:** elected December 2013. John is a parent governor with a son at the school in Year 6. He has worked in construction since leaving school and is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor. He has lived either in or close to Purley most of his life and attended what was Purley Boys School in Old Coulsdon.

**Mr Patrick Oppong-Agyare:** Patrick was appointed a Parent Governor in July 2013 and has been thoroughly enjoying the role ever since. He has two boys at the school, currently in years 6 and 4. Patrick has extensive experience in the health care sector, working for the last 20 years in sales and business development both in pharmaceuticals and medical devices, working with London's Teaching Hospitals in areas such as infection control, diabetes and heart disease.

**Mr Nigel Pitcher:** elected in March 2017. Nigel was educated at Lancing College, and went straight into a career with Midland Bank for 19 years, filling various roles in branch banking including Business Banking. Thereafter he has worked in mortgages for Halifax, and qualified as a financial advisor with Andrews Estate agency, before becoming a manager in estate agency for 14 years. He lives in Purley, has one daughter currently in Year 5 at Beaumont, and his older daughter left Beaumont in summer 2017 for secondary school.

**Mr Derek Brook:** elected September 2019. Derek is a parent governor with a daughter at the school in Year 2 and another starting Reception in September 2020. He has been a Police Officer for over 20 years, most recently as an Instructor in the Specialist Firearms Command (SCO19). He currently manages Training Compliance and Health & Safety in all Firearms Training and remains an active Armed Officer, Firearms Commander and Sniper (his rifle is called Alice). Derek holds PTLLS, NEBOSH, PTI and Medic Instructor Qualifications. Outside of work, Derek has taught traditional Kung Fu to adults and children for over 25 years and is a passionate advocate for traditional Chinese Martial arts.

**Mrs Amy Jensen:** elected September 2019. Amy is a parent governor and has three sons at the school in Years 3, 5 and 6. Her background in Systems Engineering has enabled her to become an active STEM ambassador representing her Client on Thames Tideway. She enjoys promoting Women in Engineering which includes components of Diversity and Inclusion in Construction. She believes there are many benefits for primary schools to engage and encourage enthusiasm to help bring STEM subjects to life and demonstrate the value of them in life and career

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## **What is their purpose and role?**

Governors' term of office is 4 years and the Chair and Vice Chair are elected annually. The full Board of Governors meets at least three times a year and in addition Sub-Committee meetings are held once per term to cover the detailed business under the titles of Personnel, Finance, Premises / Health & Safety / Safeguarding, and Curriculum & Standards.

The importance of Governance in schools is given in detail on the National Governors Association (NGA) website, but can be summarised as follows. Governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the country and have an important part to play in raising school standards. School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools and it is governors who hold the main responsibility for finance in schools, working with the Head to make the tough decisions about balancing resources. The role of the Board of Governors is a strategic one and is absolutely key to the effectiveness of a school. All Boards have three core 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 staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The Board of Governors operates within the guidelines set out in the Department for Education's Governance Handbook (revised April 2017).

The Headteacher is responsible for the internal organisation, management and control of the school and the implementation of the strategic framework established by the governing board.

### **Sub-Committees:**

Each Sub-Committee comprises of a minimum of three Governors plus the Headteacher and meet as often as necessary but at least once a term. To enable business to proceed a minimum of two Governors and the Headteacher must be present. Each Sub-Committee has a responsibility to liaise with other Sub-Committees and any Working Parties of the Board of Governors as necessary.

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Each meeting of the Sub-Committees is minuted and circulated to all Governors prior to the next meeting of the full Board of Governors, together with actions plans, a note of actions taken and / or decisions or recommendations made.

The Constitution of each Sub-Committee is reviewed annually at the Autumn term meeting of the Board of Governors, however the Board of Governors can withdraw its delegated powers at any time.

**Curriculum & Standards:** Mike Fisher (Chair)  
Anne Morrell  
Chris Hatton  
Bill Burton  
Mary Escott  
Amy Jensen

In consultation with the Headteacher, this Sub-Committee reviews the policies that are the responsibility of the Curriculum & Standards Committee, taking into account statutory requirements and the policies of the Local Authority. These policies include, amongst others, School Rules & Behaviour, Racial Equality, Teaching and Learning, all curriculum subject policies, and Monitoring, Self-Evaluation and School Improvement.

Current issues within the School Development Plan will feature on each agenda of the Curriculum Committee

**Finance:** Noel Nineham (Chair)  
Anne Morrell  
Mike Fisher  
Revd Jeremy Groombridge CB  
Patrick Oppong-Agyare  
Gordon Smith

The Board of Governors delegates the following powers to the Finance Sub-Committee:

- the annual preparation of the school budget for the Board of Governors' approval.
  - the determination of the sum, if any, which can be made available for discretionary salary awards for staff, taking into account the needs of the whole school and the adequacy of the budget.
  - the determination of the salary range available for each vacancy as it arises.
  - to approve the movement of funds between different areas of the budget and any budgeted expenditure in excess of the limit placed by the Board of Governors on the Headteacher for approval.
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- to consider all matters relating to the financial policy of the school other than the day to day administration delegated to the Headteacher and to make recommendations to the Board of Governors.
- to consider all matters relating to the School Development Plan and to make recommendations to the Board of Governors.

**Personnel:**

Revd Jeremy Groombridge CB (Chair)  
 Mike Fisher  
 Anne Morrell  
 Noel Nineham  
 Patrick Oppong-Agyare  
 Gordon Smith

The Board of Governors delegates the following powers to the Personnel Sub-Committee:

- to adopt and implement any changes to the Pay, Terms and Conditions Policy as advised by DfE / LA on an annual basis.
- the determination and notification to staff of their grading and remuneration in accordance with the agreed Pay, Terms and Conditions Policy.
- the membership of a selection panel for the recruitment of staff in accordance with the requirements of the agreed staffing policy.
- to consider any other personnel issues referred to the Governors by the Headteacher.
- matters relating to grievances or discipline; however, the Chair of Governors would withdraw to maintain impartiality in the event of an appeal.
- to overview the implementation of the Performance Management Policy.

**Premises / Health & Safety  
 / Safeguarding**

John Harris (Chair)  
 Anne Morrell  
 Derek Brook  
 Nigel Pitcher  
 Gordon Smith

The Board of Governors delegates the following powers to the Premises/Health & Safety/Safeguarding Sub-Committee:

- to ensure compliance with any statutory direction or guidance given by the LA in relation to Health and Safety and also with the Board of Governors Health and Safety Policy, and to ensure that regular health and safety checks are undertaken; these checks are carried out each term by two members of the sub-committee.
- to consult with the Headteacher, Board of Governors and the LA where necessary if any health and safety hazard arises which is the responsibility of the LA.

- to monitor arrangements for the use of school premises by outside users subject to the provisions set out in the Articles of Government, the Board of Governor's policy on use of school premises and the scale of charges for school lettings other than to subsidised organisations where the charges are agreed by the LA.
- to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to achieve maximum energy conservation.
- to make recommendations for arrangements for grounds maintenance, school cleaning, security development – its purposes and uses - and to monitor such arrangements.
- general oversight of the budget for the maintenance and cleaning of premises and equipment.
- to monitor the code of conduct of contractors and other visitors to the premises.
- to consider any other matters concerning the school buildings, grounds or lettings referred to the Sub-Committee by the Board of Governors.

#### **Governors' Adopted Classes:**

EYFS: t.b.a.	Year 4: t.b.a.
Year 1: Revd Jeremy Groombridge	Year 5: Patrick Oppong-Agyare
Year 2: Nigel Pitcher	Year 6: Mary Escott
Year 3: Noel Nineham	

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**The Board of Governors welcomes communication from  
all stakeholders of the school**

**Please contact us by email:**

**[office@beaumont.croydon.gov.uk](mailto:office@beaumont.croydon.gov.uk)**

**or by writing a letter addressed to**

**The Chair of Governors c/o the School Office  
Beaumont Primary School  
Old Lodge Lane,  
Purley CR8 4DN**

**Tel 0208 660 7707**

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