

## **Oak Tree Federation Board of Governors**

The board has had a number of changes since last academic year with a new Chair and Vice-Chair and a number of new governors joining. Over the year we'll be introducing the governors in the newsletter. You can also find out about the board on our school websites.

Laughton Community Primary School and Firle Church of England Primary School have one governing body. Throughout the school year we will update you with the main items we are working on and invite you to ask questions or to find out more.

All schools in England are required by law to have a Governing Board. We are volunteers who work with the Federation's senior leaders to help ensure that children are receiving the best education they can while they are at school. We support the school by helping to formulate clear aims and objectives for improving our two schools and look at data and other results to see how well we have done and what could be further improved.

We meet as a whole group six times a year and we have smaller working groups to focus on specific areas. Individual governors are also 'link governors' with specific responsibility for areas of the federation improvement plan. You can find out more about the work we do and our key objectives for each year on the school website.

This month we're introducing our new Chair, Debra Vice-Holt and our new Vice-Chair, Gemma Collins:

Debra Vice-Holt, Chair of Governors and Parent Governor  
d.viceholt@oaktree federation.co.uk

I joined the governing board as a parent governor in 2018 and became the Chair of Governors in 2019. I have son at Firle School. I am a member of the Finance and Pay Committee and the working groups Leadership and Management and Quality of Education.

I have a background in education working with schools and colleges across Sussex to increase the number of young people from under-represented groups that progress in education. I am Director of the community interest company, Work & Learning Opportunities and undertake coaching specifically focusing on careers and education. My formal qualifications include a BA in Drama and Theatre Studies and an MA in Gender Studies. I have served as trustee with

two charities and was Chair of the Brighton Women's Centre. I am keen to represent parents and carers through my role as a governor and would be happy to speak with you to ensure your comments, views and questions are addressed.

Gemma Collins, Vice Chair and Parent Governor

[g.collins@oaktreeederation.co.uk](mailto:g.collins@oaktreeederation.co.uk)

I have a son and a daughter at Laughton CP School. I have a degree in Communications and Media Studies, a diploma in Marketing and am an Accredited Clerk. I work on a self employed basis for a photography company, a building firm and The British Association of Paintings Conservator-Restorers. With a communications, marketing and governance background I hope to utilise my skills and knowledge in the role of parent governor. I am the link governor for Safeguarding and for governor training.

Would you like to join the board?

Being a school governor requires commitment but is a hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference and give something back to your local community. There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system as there is plenty of training available. We need and benefit from a range of professional knowledge on the governing board including education, finance, human resources, legal, marketing and public relations, property and estates management, and organisational change. If you're interested in finding out more please contact Debra [d.viceholt@oaktreeederation.co.uk](mailto:d.viceholt@oaktreeederation.co.uk)