



VIKING ACADEMY TRUST

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A message from Upton Junior School's Chair of Governors:

Robin Curtis



On behalf of Upton's Local Advisory Body (LAB) I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all new parents and carers. For new parents to the school we thought we would tell you a little more about what the Local Governor's role is within a school.

The Local Advisory Body (Governing Body) is made up of 'Local Governors'. Their function is to work with the Viking Academy Trust Board to:

- set the strategic direction, objectives, targets and policies*;
- approve the school budget*;
- review progress against the budget, school improvement plan and targets;
- act as a critical friend to the Head of School and senior staff by providing support and challenge;
- appoint the Head of School*.

So 'local governors' make important decisions on policy and strategy and are answerable to parents and the wider community. They help raise the standards and performance of the school by supporting the work of the Head of School and the staff. Local Governors will support and, at the same time, challenge the Head of School by gathering views, asking questions and helping to decide what is best for the school.



Chilton Primary School
Mrs Kate Law ~ Head of School
www.chiltonprimarieschool.co.uk



Ramsgate Arts Primary School
Mr Nicholas Budge ~ Head of School
www.ramsgateartsprimary.co.uk



Upton Junior School
Miss Darci Arthur
~ Head of School
www.uptonjunior.com

How Does the 'Local Advisory Body' Work?

The LAB conducts most business via a framework of termly meetings, working closely with the Head of School, the Leadership Team and the Viking Trust Board. Sub-committees are appointed from the full membership to deal with specific resources, curriculum or staff and pupil welfare aspects and these meet separately. Meetings can also be called in order to discuss a particular item of business.

Local Governors visit the school to monitor the actions the Head of School and staff have taken to drive school improvement and specific visits to school may be to look closely at a subject or area of school life (eg What do pupils think about the Behaviour Policy?). Local Governors meet with children and parents to seek views on the strengths and areas of development for Upton.

Most full meetings of the Local Advisory Body (LAB) are held after school, whilst the opportunity to meet during the day also exists for link governors and sub-committees.

Who is represented on Upton's LAB?

- Parents - who are elected by other parents who have children attending the school.
- The Head of School and another member of staff elected by the teachers and non-teaching staff at the school.
- Co-opted Governors who can offer advice and support to the school.

Being a 'Local Governor' is a good way to be involved in the life and development of our school.

Communicating with Local Governors

The Chair of Governors and members of the LAB host a 'Meet The Governors' session three times across the school year. This is an informal meeting (held in the library with refreshments) for parents to meet governors, ask about the role we play in school development, ask questions about aspects of school life as well as put forward suggestions for school improvement.



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As Chair of Governors, I have a direct email address if you wish to contact me about a specific issue: robin.curtis@vikingacademytrust.com Alternatively, messages can be left with the school office.

Local Governors often attend school events and celebrations across the school year (we wear our official 'Upton lanyard' so can be easily recognised!)

The local governors also have an area on the school website where you can find out more about us as well as a regular section in the newsletter.

If you are interested in joining our local governing body (LAB) please contact me via the school office or email me on the email given above.

I look forward to seeing you at various functions across the school year.

Yours sincerely

Robin Curtis

Chair of Governors



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