



Local Academy Board Newsletter

A warm welcome to our LAB Newsletter!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Local Academy Board, the Governing Body responsible for the monitoring of Sandiway Primary School.

I am Emma Zouhbi and I was elected on to the Board in October 2020 as a Parent representative, taking on the role of Chair in November 2021. I was raised in Cuddington and actually attended Sandiway Primary School myself many moons ago! I moved back to the village specifically so that my children could start their school journey in Sandiway. My motivation for joining the board was so that I can give back to a school and community that I credit for giving me such a positive start in life, and to help ensure that our future generations receive the best quality provision.

By taking on the role of Chair I am really looking forward to forming a closer working relationship with all the staff, and especially having the privilege of visiting regularly and seeing all the fantastic teaching and learning that takes place here. I am meeting with Mr Priddey and Senior Leaders on a regular basis to look at ways in which we can increasingly engage with staff, parents and pupils to enable us as a LAB to carry out our core duties of:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

In addition to myself and Clare Mackin (also a parent representative) taking on the Chair and Vice Chair roles, the LAB has recently recruited a number of new members and now has a broad range of experiences and knowledge within the team. We are working hard to ensure that a robust induction, training and mentoring process is in place in order to effectively deliver the monitoring and strategic overview of the School.

I'd like to thank you all on behalf of the LAB for your contributions to date through the Parent Partnership scheme that we initiated last year, and for completing the surveys that have been sent out so far.

Since the return to school after the Christmas holidays I have been helping out on gate duty in the mornings. In addition to thanking you all for working with the school with regards to changes in procedures during the drop off times, I would like to pass on how wonderful it has been to see so many happy faces entering school. The behaviour of each and every child has been a delight to see, they are a credit to you all.

I am really looking forward to seeing what this half term will bring!

Emma Zouhbi



Clare – Vice Chair.

Hello everyone! I have been a parent governor for 4 years and have recently taken on the role of Vice Chair of Governors supporting Emma. I have two children currently in the school and a third in Smallworld. I work as a 999 call taker, a job which can be challenging at times but I absolutely love. At the grand old age of 43 I have just been identified as both dyslexic and dyspraxic. My career and life experiences have made me extremely passionate about children's wellbeing and equality for all learning abilities something which always effects the way I approach governance. As Governors we try to understand how children and parents are experiencing their school journey. We do this through talking to them (the best bit), chatting with staff, and generally being around and about in school. It all has a purpose. For example, the parent partnership is vital to understand the impact of school's day to day practices. Mrs Harvey and I have worked very hard on getting this up and running and have had positive and constructive feedback, all of which goes towards building a positive and open relationship, something which I hope continues and I thank you all for your enthusiasm and input into these meetings.

Updates:

Teaching and Learning

Following the many new developments that have taken place this academic year we are already seeing a positive impact on the children's understanding, learning and skills development. During a recent walk around the school I was delighted to see such enthusiastic faces and lots of robot arms in Early Years, clearly enjoying the new Phonics scheme. It has been a pleasure to see the outcomes of children's learning in their books and to hear conversations around recent learning in various subjects.

Health and Safety and Safeguarding

Our LAB members continue to monitor the safety systems in schools. Since the return after Christmas the enhanced procedures for morning drop offs have been working well, and we thank you for all your help and support in implementing the gate changes as additional security.

Parent and Pupil Voice

Our Parent Partnership scheme continues to be high on our agenda, with the next meeting scheduled for 8th February. We will also be looking to gather points of view from further questionnaires in the near future and are very grateful to you for taking the time to complete them. They are an important measure of success for the school.

I would like to thank the children of Sandiway for all their hard work and efforts so far. I would like to also thank parents/carers and all members of staff for their time and dedication to ensuring that we provide the best possible outcomes for the children of Sandiway.

Best wishes and kind regards,

Emma Zouhbi – Chair of the Local Academy Board