

Dear parent or carer

I would like to introduce myself as Chair of governors. I have been a governor at this fantastic school for five years alongside a dedicated team of governors and staff who work tirelessly to ensure students at JCSC have the best possible education they can. We have been delighted to work with the school leadership team on our journey to good. The Ofsted inspection validated the school's own evaluation that we were now a good school. As you know this is the first time in the school's history. We are all delighted!

Robert Arckless is our Vice Chair. He was previously a pupil at South Avenue and understands the importance of education in Amble and the surrounding area. We will both work together with the other governors to support and challenge the school to be the best it can.

Governors will continue to grow and develop and improve their work with the school community. Many governors have completed training over the last year to ensure they are up to date in all aspects of school including safeguarding/special needs/improving outcomes for pupils as well as developing the role further. We buy into the Northumberland clerking service and can access a wide range of training as governors.

Just so you are aware, we meet as a full governing body at least three times a year and currently have three committees that look at different aspects of the school. We work with Mr Rodgers and the senior leadership team to do this.

These focus on:

- Teaching and learning - looking areas such as how well pupils achieve, how good teaching is.
- Pastoral support - looking at areas such as safeguarding, behaviour, attendance, attitudes, etc.
- Finance, staffing and premises - ensuring funding is used effectively, staffing, health and safety and premises development.

We also have a focus on the primary aspect of the school ensuring pupils do as well as they can in their first years at JCSC.

In addition to the above, governors have individual responsibilities, such as meeting directors to discuss subjects like mathematics, English, science, safeguarding, etc, related to the priorities of the school.

This year our main priorities in the school improvement plan include the Ofsted priorities and our own priorities.

- to promote and enhance the mental and physical well being of all members of our school community
- Improving persistent absence
- continuing to improve teaching/learning and the curriculum



- continuing to improve basic skills for all groups of pupils in school
- continuing to promote a positive climate for learning across the school

We have a mix of people on the governing body including the headteacher, parent governors, a staff governor, a local authority governor, people from the local community and co-opted governors. We are all volunteers and put in a lot of our own time and effort to do this. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for this. I look forward to meeting many of you in school.

We are always on the lookout for new governors who can enhance our team. If you have skills, you think may be useful to us please do get in touch and we are happy to tell you more. Now we are looking for people with accountancy skills/. finance but we are always happy to talk to other people with a passion for the continued improvement of JCSC. New governors are offered a mentor and have an induction programme too.

If you would like to contact me, you can email [governors@jcsc.co.uk](mailto:governors@jcsc.co.uk).

Best wishes

*Sue Currie*

Chair of governors

James Calvert Spence College