

27th April 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to introduce myself as the newly appointed Chair of Governors at Cranmere Primary School & Nursery. My name is Hanja De Beer (formerly Dorfling) and I have been part of the governing body of Cranmere since November 2015 when I was elected as a Parent Governor by our parents and carers at the time.

My career background of almost 20 years is as a chartered accountant with a financial and tax systems & technology specialism and include being a director with KPMG and, more recently, a consultant in my field through my own company. I currently work part-time as a consultant while building a portfolio career as an independent consultant and non-executive director. I am kept quite busy as a single mother caring for my daughters, Jana (in Year 5 at Cranmere) and Bianca (in Year 3).

I am passionate about learning and cultivating young minds to help shape our future. I hope to pursue my passion to study towards a PGCE from September 2018, the motivation and calling for which I found through being a Parent Governor.

As part of my commitment to Cranmere, its leadership team, governing body, pupils, parents/carers and community, I will provide regular updates to our parents and carers on behalf of the Governing Body. In this 'first edition', I thought it may be helpful to explain more about what we as a Governing Body do in school.

What do Governors at Cranmere do?

The Governing Body has three specific roles. These are:

- To be strategic
- To act as critical friend in the development of the school
- To be accountable to the whole school community

How we Work?

The Governing Body consist of 3 sub-committees. We meet as a Full Governing Body every term. The sub-committees also meet together every term to review and discuss the details of school life. These committees cover:

- Learning and Achievement
- Finance and Personnel
- Buildings and Premises

Certain statutory panels are formed and meet as and when they are needed for example around strategic decisions, performance management, staffing, etc.

We formally assign the role of supporting safeguarding in school and have a specific Safeguarding Governor. On an informal basis, we assign areas such as year groups and core subjects to governors to focus their school visits.

As Governors we also share a common objective which is the wider school community – working in partnership with you as parents and carers and staff to ensure that every child can succeed and reach their full potential. To achieve this, and to carry out our role as Governors effectively, we need to know what issues are important to you (so we remain responsive) and ensure that you know what issues Governors are discussing (so that we remain accountable). That is why, as Governors, we work closely with Mrs Daniels and the staff to ensure that we continue to deliver a high standard of education to our children at Cranmere.

I think that the most important thing to note is that Governors are a team and operate in conjunction with the headteacher and staff. We are not a collection of individuals or groups with separate agenda's or powers in school. However much we may differ in our opinions and experiences, we are united by our commitment to the school and the responsibility we share for the school's long term success.

All relevant information is included on the school's website. Please remember that the website is a good way of keeping up to date with all aspects of school life. In the next update, I look forward to introducing you to the individuals making up our team.

In the meantime, if you have a point of view to share or feedback, please let us know. We can be contacted via the school office or by e-mail on chair.cranmere@gmail.com. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the coming months.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to assure you that I am committed and immensely proud of our school, as I hope you are too. I will continue to work with Mrs Daniels and her Staff Team, Governors, Parents and Pupils as we all together strive to make Cranmere Primary School & Nursery an outstanding school.

With best wishes

Hanja De Beer
Chair of Governors