



MANLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Governing Body changes

Two of our long-standing governors are stepping down this term, and I wanted to pay tribute to the major roles they have both played at Manland.

Roger Dorey joined the GB in May 2010, and since then has contributed a huge amount of time, expertise and passion to the school, particularly in the areas of premises improvement and Health & Safety. His former career as a research scientist in engineering gave him valuable knowhow to help us specify, gain funding for, and project-manage several upgrades to Manland's ageing infrastructure. Key projects he has supported have included the replacement of the Year 1 mobile classroom in summer 2016, the roof work in summer 2017, and earlier, the replacement of the boilers and windows.

Roger has been incredibly generous with his time, regularly spending long days at school liaising with contractors, investigating premises problems, and helping out with whatever needs doing. He has also enjoyed spending time with the children, helping with reading in Year 2 for many years, and taking a special interest in science. He is looking forward to spending more time with his growing number of grandchildren now that he will be spending less time at Manland.

Katy Wilmshurst has been involved at Manland since her son, now 18, started in Reception! Initially, she was active with the HSA, including two years as HSA Chair. She has been a governor since 2008, including six years as Chair of Governors. She did an exemplary job as Chair, working skilfully and tirelessly to make sure we followed best-practice governance guidelines, and tackling difficult issues sensitively and professionally.

On the Governing Body, we will greatly miss Katy's dedication, skills, experience and sense of humour, but it is time for her to move on. She is now a member of the SJL Governing Body and also a Trustee of the SJL MAT, so the experience and wisdom she gathered at Manland is being put to good use. And of course she will still be in touch with Manland via her continuing role as violin teacher.

Please join me and the other governors in thanking Roger and Katy for all they have done to help the children of Manland, and in wishing them happiness and success in their future endeavours.

Kind regards,

Clare Turner
Chair of Governors

Manland Primary School -- Governing Body

Vacancy for a Co-opted Governor

After recent changes on the Manland Governing Body, we now have a vacancy for one ‘Co-opted’ governor. As you may know, we recently appointed two new parent governors: Katharine Robertson and Joe Guy. A co-opted governor could also be a parent, but it is more usual for them to be someone from the local community who is more independent of the school.

Please consider if there is anyone you know who might be interested in this role. This might be a friend, colleague, neighbour or someone from your extended family.

What sort of person would make a good governor?

The main requirement is an enthusiasm to play a significant and fulfilling role in the life and development of the school. It is important that all governors are aligned with the school’s ethos of being a supportive, caring and inclusive community, encouraging each other to achieve our potential in everything we do. To contribute effectively to the Governing Body, governors need to be good team players and have strong communication skills.

As well as these general attributes, there are some specific skill-sets which would be particularly valuable at Manland to help us keep a good balance of skills on our Governing Body. These include:

- Technology skills
- Accounting and finance competence
- Project management, contracts expertise
- Legal expertise
- PR/Communications/marketing experience
- Experience in the charity sector

If you know of anyone who might be suitable, please encourage them to contact us to find out more about what the role entails. We would welcome an informal, exploratory chat – there is absolutely no commitment at this stage.

We can be contacted via the school office on 01582 713452, via any current governor, or e-mail Clare Turner, Chair of Governors, at chairgovernors@manland.herts.sch.uk.

More information about the school can be found on the school website: www.manland.herts.sch.uk

General information about the role of school governor can be found at the following websites:

- Herts County Council ‘Becoming a School Governor’ page:
<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-governors/becoming-a-school-governor.aspx>
- National Governors’ Association website, especially
<http://www.nga.org.uk/Be-a-Governor.aspx>,
and their guidebook for new governors:
<http://www.nga.org.uk/Publications/Welcome-to-Governance-Resources.aspx>
- Herts For Learning Governance services website – This shows you the wide range of training and other support services which are available:
<http://www.hertsforlearning.co.uk/team/governance>