



**Cliffe (V.C.) Primary School**  
**Main Street**  
**Cliffe**  
**SELBY**  
**YO8 6NN**



**Tel/Fax: 01757 638426**  
**[headteacher@cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk)**  
**[www.cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk)**  
**Headteacher: Mrs S Hay**

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Here is the Spring update about the Governing Body at Cliffe School.

Quite a lot has happened since I wrote to you last but I know that Mrs Hay keeps you well informed with everything that happens in school.

Two key events that were of particular concern to governors were the Local Authority Review of Governance and the visit to school by Her Majesty's Inspector, Mr Chris Keeler. Both of these were invaluable in helping us to improve in the way we support the school.

The Local Authority Review highlighted a particular weakness – that parents and staff have little understanding of who governors are and what we do. This is something that we have started to work on straight away and I hope that you have already noticed that governors have been more visible around school. It is likely that you were accosted by one of them to complete a questionnaire when you attended parents evening! We have also timetabled ourselves to be available to speak to parents every Friday between 8.30 and 9.30. You may have noticed me standing at the gate on Friday morning though one child was worried to see me there thinking that it meant that Mrs Hay must be absent from school! It was nice to see you all again and I hope it reminded you that I now have a different role as Chair of Governors. Each week a different governor will be available and it is your opportunity to meet us and ask questions or make comments, good or bad, about the school. We want to listen to you more and we want you to have confidence in what we do.

We are also meeting staff and children more and spending more time in school in our monitoring role. We have arranged training for governors and staff together so that we can be clearer about what our strategic role in school is. We are all volunteers, some with a background in education, but by no means all and so we cannot make judgements about the school. What we can do is work with the staff in supporting and challenging the school to continually improve.

The visit by Her Majesty's Inspector, Mr Chris Keeler was a routine visit following Ofsted to ensure that the school is moving in the right direction. Mr Keeler was very supportive and pleased with the plans in place and the progress being made. He also had good advice for governors which we have taken on board.

In line with all schools in the country the Governing Body has been required to 'reconstitute' this year. This means that we have had to review the make up of the governing body and consider the type and numbers required for effective governance. Our new constitution requires us to have 12 governors including 1 staff, 3 parents, 4 co opted, 1 local authority, 2 foundation and the Headteacher.

The governing body has a range of duties and powers and a general responsibility for the conduct of the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement. Its responsibilities include but are not limited to:

Setting targets for pupil achievement

Managing the school's finances

Making sure the curriculum is balanced and broadly based

Appointing staff

Reviewing staff performance and pay

We are going to publish more governor information on the school website including the minutes of our meetings. Minutes will always seem quite old because they have to be agreed at the next meeting before they can be published. Information and photos of governors are already on the website to help you to recognise us!

I hope that you see a difference in the way that we communicate you and I hope that governors will have a productive partnership with parents, children and staff working together to make Cliffe VC Primary School the best that it can be for your children.

Yours faithfully

Carole Middleton

Chair of Governors

[CofG@cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:CofG@cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk)