



## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Welcome to the Governing Body of Silverdale School and Commissioned Service. This document aims to provide an outline of what the Governors do, and to point you in the direction of further reading.

The Governing Body has three main functions, according to the official handbook. These are:

1. Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

More generally, the Governors exist to act as advocates and champions for the pupils in the school, and to help the staff and pupils achieve the best outcomes possible. In order to do this, we work with the leadership team to agree on priorities and directions for the school and then we comment and encourage based on performance related data.

The school's Purpose is as follows

**To enable our learners to overcome the barriers of SEMH and to be ready for the world beyond Silverdale, equipped to achieve their goals in life.**

We achieve this by focusing on three main areas –

- a) the welcome we provide to pupils who join us;
- b) our curriculum – making sure it's interesting, varied and challenging but also equips our learners for the future and
- c) our career offering (for both pupils and staff) which means helping pupils find the right destination post Silverdale and ensuring that our staff have a rewarding career with us in which they can grow and develop.

The Governing Body of Silverdale School meets 6 times per year – three times to conduct regular business and three times to “deep dive” a particular topic that we think is important and relevant.

In addition, there are three sub-committees meeting regularly:

Resources (including Finance, Staffing, Premises);  
Curriculum, Communications;  
Admissions; and Policy Review.

It will be useful to get to know the school well – through the information that's shared with Governors, through the school website and through visits to school (see visits policy documents for more guidance on visiting school). The better our knowledge of the school, the more informed our questions to school leadership and the more targeted our support can be. Equally, it's important to bear in mind that Governors are not inspectors. We do not make judgements on classroom teaching via observations (but rather through performance data), we do not spend a great deal of time with the pupils, we do not write the policies or audit the school. These are all tasks delegated to others. Neither do Governors as individuals wield power! We are decisive and influential as a properly constituted Governing Body, but not as individuals.

Governance makes a great difference to the performance of a school, but can also be enormously rewarding as well. I hope it is a positive experience for you, and through you, for the pupils of Silverdale.

*Andrew Graydon*

**CHAIR OF GOVERNORS**