

 **Westdale Junior School**  
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Hi everyone,

I am writing to you to introduce myself and explain what the Local Governing Board (LGB) does. First and foremost I would like to say a massive thank you to Mrs Yates, our long time Chair. She has supported the school for a long time, both as a Governor, Chair and Volunteer, and her experience, knowledge and care for the students will be missed.

So what does your LGB do? Westdale is part of the Nova Trust, and the LGB at the School works within their structure, and while the final decisions are generally made by the Trust, the School does have an input in the process and delivery of the decisions and strategic directions.

At this point it should be noted that as an LGB we have challenged the Trust on occasion, but the Trust is a massive benefit to this School in terms of planning, direction, support of staff and financially.

This was the case last year when they supported the school through difficult times financially and staff wise, especially around the change to the Senior Leadership Team, and support to upgrade the Curriculum and processes within the School. It is my belief that the School is in a far better position now, with a new SLT, curriculum approach and a settled staff.

While on this point I would like to thank the staff. They have taken on board a lot of changes in a positive way, and this coming year we are looking forward to continued progress in how your children's education is delivered.

So back to the LGB. What are our core roles? The LGB has three core functions-

1. To provide Strategic Leadership within the School, which in essence is setting the priorities based upon the local context.
2. We ensure robust accountability of our leaders. This means holding them to account for educational and organisational performance
3. To oversee the financial performance and make sure public money is well spent.

The LGB is encouraged to challenge and ask questions, which can be in the termly meetings, Nova team meetings or as the Link Governor. I will cover the role of the Link Governor in the next Chair's Letter.

So finally this is the first step of getting to know the LGB and what it does. Plans are in progress to put together a series of "Meet the Chair" meetings, and the next letter will introduce the Current Governors and their roles.

Be Kind, Work Hard,

Steve Payne (Chair of Governors)