

Gilmorton
Chandler Primary
School

"I am proud to be a
Governor...which has
its pupils and staff at
its heart"

"Gilmorton is a 'Good'
school and I feel proud
to be part of our
school....we strive to be
even better in all we
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"I have an interest in all
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Inside this issue:

Governor Profile	2
Governor Profile	2
Governor Vacancy	2
Trust News	3
Safeguarding	4
Behaviour	5
Focus for next term	6

Gilmorton Governors

Newsletter

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Welcome & Latest Update

Welcome! We have been looking at improvements we can make as a committee and know 'Communication' is often a key topic for parents and staff. Governors do a variety of behind-the-scenes activities, school monitoring visits, writing reports as well as online tasks, training, meetings etc – we have a passion for our great school and want to see it go from strength to strength. We'll give you a snippet of our activities on a termly basis, so you hear of the good work done

and aware of our key priorities. Most recently, Governors discussed full school learning walks that have taken place following the Trust-wide introduction of the CUSP curriculum. Change can cause unsettlement, but evidence shows reading & writing is being taught consistently across all classrooms and improvements in learning behaviour has been seen since the Autumn term. Whilst in the early phases and great progress, there is still much to do to ensure all staff can access the

relevant CPD training, get the support needed and able to confidently flourish with this challenge.

Lastly, but most importantly, Mrs Otway's summer departure from the school. Both a brilliant teacher and a wonderful School Leader, she will be sadly missed by us all. We will work with School Leaders to ensure that her successor is exceptionally capable and can confidently continue with the excellent progress that Mrs Otway and her team have made.

Message from the Chair of Governors

Many people ask me 'What is the role of Governors?', so I thought I'd say a few brief words that may help explain. Contrary to popular belief, Governors do not manage or control the day-to-day operations of the school. As a committee of the IPAT Trust, we aim to provide a high standard of education for all pupils of all abilities. We provide a

strategic view of where Gilmorton school is heading, agree policies, targets and priorities, monitor and review aims/objectives, all detailed in our School Development Plan. We are a 'critical friend' to the school. Working with Mrs Otway and Mr Watson, we understand the challenges the school faces and through trust and respect,

are able to question and challenge. We hold the school to account for the standards it achieves and the quality of education it provides. I know Gilmorton is a 'Good' school and I feel proud to be part of our school, but along with the Senior Leadership Team and Staff, we strive to be even better in all we do.

D.Moore, Chair

Governor Profile—Staff Governor



Newly Appointed
Staff Governor
Mrs Olivia Moss

Hi everyone, I am Olivia Moss the EYFS Class Teacher at Gilmorton and a newly appointed staff governor. I have always wanted to be a teacher and graduated from Leeds University in 2016, with a Degree in Primary Education: Early Years. This is my third year here at Gilmorton, and my subject responsibilities are Science and EYFS lead. Prior to working here, I was a

teacher in the North Leicestershire area. At the weekends I like to go on walks with my cockapoo, Lola and to see my family and friends. I also enjoy travelling, shopping and currently, I am learning to crochet!

I am very excited to be a part of our wonderful school governors team. I have an interest in all the children's futures, a desire

to make a difference, a willingness to accept responsibility, and an ability to work in a team, ask questions, listen and learn! I am often tucked away in my classroom at the back of the school, so I don't often see many people, but, if you do manage to spot me, feel free to say hello!



Foundation Governor
Mrs Karen Morgan

Governor Profile—Foundation Governor

My name is Karen Morgan and I have been a Governor for just over a year, but previously served as a governor at the school for 17 years! Having left in 2017, I'm really pleased to have been asked to come back.

My son started at Gilmorton school in 1998 and the

changes which have happened over the last 26 years have been amazing. The school has gone from strength to strength. It all started when as a governing body we appointed Marie Sandford as Head teacher, who helped to make the school the excellent teaching environment it is today with amazing

teaching staff and support staff.

The recent building work has improved the school environment tremendously, including new classrooms.

I am proud to be a Governor again at a school which has its pupils and staff at its heart.

Parent Governor Vacancy—We Need You!

Have you got what it takes to be a School Governor?

We are looking for a team-player with a passion for our school and with the expectation that all pupils attending Gilmorton have the opportunity to meet their full potential.

We are looking for a strategic

thinker, someone who can build strong relationships, with an enquiring mind and the confidence and ability to challenge whilst being the school's 'critical friend'. You will help to set and review the schools strategic direction and agree targets for improvement and in return, a sense of achievement in help-

ing to make a difference to pupils reaching their potential.

Further details will be sent via the School Office after Easter. If you have questions in advance, please email d.moore@ipat.uk



Trust News—Inspiring Primaries Academy Trust

We aim to bring you IPAT news each term. The last 12 months has seen significant change, focused on improving all 9 Trust schools and ensuring the curriculum across schools is consistent. With the introduction of the CUSP curriculum, the CPD programme offered to staff can be relevant and we can move rapidly to improve standards and quality of teaching Trust wide. This will benefit each and every pupil.

Less visible Trust changes, but vitally important, are reorganising the central leadership team to

facilitate school improvement and securing a Service Level Agreement with another Trust. Gilmorton School are already benefitting from this in the EYFS classroom. A recent support and development visit focused on phonics, literacy, behaviour and self-regulation and the provisions/resources within the class. EYFS parents may have seen physical changes to the room, with zones for focused learning, calm and neutral areas for continuous learning and displays for literacy texts.

Next steps are to focus on communication. This needs to improve. The two-way communication between the Trust Board, Governors & School has not been to the high standard we expect, and steps are being taken to improve this. We look forward to reporting on progress next time.



Governor Visit—Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a priority at Gilmorton. Governors ensure policies and procedures are in place, with audits taking place annually. This years audit looked at the revised LEA policy (personalised



for Gilmorton), discussed Health & Safety, Behaviour & Discipline, Online Safety and looked thorough work done as part of Anti-Bullying week. The campaign was shared with pupils via class lessons and collective worship. PHSE lessons have focused on the SCARF scheme (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) and inclu-

sion of vaping and untoward behaviour.

We have a Safeguarding Lead for IPAT, offering a greater breadth of safeguarding experience, who is able to offer safeguarding trails and school support. This resource will be explored in more detail over the next 12 months.

Governor Visit—Focus on Behaviour

Post-pandemic, Gilmorton have been focusing on pupil behaviour. Ensuring pupils understand expectations and how to demonstrate these is key to preventing low level disruption in classes (which is distracting for all pupils and staff). Pupils follow the STAR technique – Sit Up, Track the Speaker, Ask and Answer like a scholar &

Respect those Around You. During the visit, it was clear that staff are using this approach, and recent adaptions have had a positive effect. With the coaching system for CPD, this improvement will lead to consistency across all classrooms. Pupils were observed moving from play time to classrooms in a quiet manner and

settled into learning quickly and engaged and focused on the teacher. Buddy systems (Yr6/EYFS), Playground Leaders (Yr5) and lunch-time activities are successful and other activities are under development which will allow for purposeful play and help to reduce any playground incidents during break times.

“It was a pleasure to meet the children today who were polite and respectful”



Gilmorton Chandler Primary School

Church Lane
Gilmorton
Lutterworth
Leicestershire

Phone: 01455 552 343

Email: gilmortonchandler@ipat.uk

**WE STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING WE DO,
WORKING UNDER GOD'S GUIDANCE AND
ENDEAVOURING TO ENABLE ALL TO FLOURISH, BEAR
FRUIT AND LIVE WELL TOGETHER.**

Reflection—As Winter draws to a close and nature begins to show new signs of life, we celebrate what Spring has to offer. In the Gilmorton community, we are blessed to see spring lambs populating the surrounding village farms, to hear the hedgerows full of birds singing and to wander through the churchyard and be welcomed by an abundance of daffodils, hellebores and green leaves of bluebells starting to emerge. God's creation is a wonderful blessing. Gilmorton pupils are in the 'Spring' season of their life journey. Like every flower, each child is unique, special and bringing different qualities that complement their families and the school community. We hope you are able to find a moment over the break to treasure the signs of Spring.

Governors would like to wish all staff, pupils and parents an Easter filled with hope, promise & peace

Focus for Next Term

Next Term will be busy as always! Monitoring visits will look in further detail at the implementation of the CUSP curriculum, review pupil book studies, review coaching across the school, to name just a few!

We will be working with the Senior Leadership Team to review Staff Wellbeing and ensuring any areas for improvement receive the attention they require.

Governors will receive an update from the Trust Board on our current position and discuss ways of achieving the

best outcomes for our children. There will also be an update on the development of a communication strategy across the Trust.

Much of the term will focus on recruitment for a new Head of School, and also the opportunity to celebrate and be thankful for the contributions that Mrs Otway has had during her time with Gilmorton. Talking of celebrations, Governors will be looking at ways to celebrate the schools 250th anniversary the year – ideas are always welcome!

