

Outstanding School Governor Awards 2019 Winners



Nominated Governor		Reasons For Nomination
Name:	Mike Newman	<p>Mike has been a Governor at Hunsdon for xx years; as a member and as Chair of committees and eventually taking on the role of Deputy Chair of the Governing Body. This year, there have been a number of challenges and Mike has stepped up magnificently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our previous Chair had to resign at short notice for work reasons, April 2018. Mike accepted the position, managing the transition smoothly. • We had a Section 8 inspection in June followed by a Section 5 inspection in November; Mike, leading his team of Governors, met with the Inspectors, demonstrating their commitment, knowledge of the school and the rigour with which they challenged the school reports and data, in order to best support and plan for the future. The result of this was that the school changed its grading from Good to Outstanding. • Our staffroom and offices roof leaked - Mike galvanised the Governors (and Head) into coming in with him during the spring half term to rip down ceilings and then supervised the repairs himself. • As we don't have a full-time caretaker, Mike regularly opens and locks up the school so that other societies in the village can make use of the building and grounds, this brings in extra revenue and promotes a good relationship with our community. • Mike is often in school, working with the children, lending his technical expertise to their class projects. <p>Mike also brings his experience, enthusiasm, wisdom and common sense which I have come to value extremely highly.</p>
School:	Hunsdon JMI School	

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Nominated Governor		Reasons For Nomination
Name:	Marion Brown	<p>Marion joined the governing body in 2013 after we had sent an appeal to local community groups for Community Governor volunteers. As an ex-parent I was delighted when she became a governor.</p> <p>She immediately became immersed in the work of the governing body and became particularly engaged in the work of the Curriculum committee where her driving concern is that all pupils receive the very best education. In 2014 she became chair of the curriculum committee and established a working relationship with my curriculum deputy which is a model of excellence.</p> <p>She meets my deputy both before and after meetings in order to prepare, understand the school's situation and to agree ways forward. Her reports to the full governing body are concise and always address the key issues.</p> <p>When the school fell into special measures following an Ofsted inspection Marion immediately offered both her services and support. Her encouragement and questioning was crucial in helping us to move to good judgements in all categories within 12 months.</p> <p>Marion has also taught pupils on Curriculum Enrichment days and at our Business Enterprise Conference as well as delivering 6th Form lectures on the law and practice interviews for university applicants.</p> <p>Much of Marion's work has been related to improving PSHCE, citizenship and British Values education and she is currently working on a pilot that is being rolled out to other county schools.</p> <p>Overall her drive, attention to detail and ability to both listen and question makes her the ideal critical friend.</p>
School:	Verulam School	

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Nominated Governor		Reasons For Nomination
Name:	Sally Laflin	<p>Sally contributed 6 years as Chair of Governors, which is outstanding for her commitment and dedication to the success of the school. Her tenure has been distinguished by 2 successful Ofsted reviews both achieving 'Good', with 'Outstanding' also liberally mentioned.</p> <p>As a governor, Sally has helped achieve the above outcomes, whilst covering the role of Safeguarding lead and chair of our School Improvement Committee. In most years those commitments alone would have been enough, but to represent the school so professionally to Ofsted and help achieve those outcomes, has also contributed to this nomination.</p> <p>Sally has strived to work positively with all other governors, staff and the Head teacher, building a strong working relationship to maintain the balance of scrutiny and support extremely effectively.</p> <p>Sally's contribution cannot be overstated as she regularly went above and beyond a school governor's typical commitment, in always being present, at short notice or not, for visits, meetings, admin, regular keeping in touch sessions with the Head, and of course the all-important safeguarding lead.</p> <p>Sally successfully dealt with a crisis when we were short staffed, with the deputy head on maternity and 2 other teachers changing roles all overlapping at the same time. Assisting the Head with recruitment and supporting the change-around of cover across the school, to manage initially in the short-term and, following helping on the recruitment panel, to put in place a stronger staff resource for the longer-term. She was also particularly supportive in improving the outdoor learning in our Foundation Stage.</p>
School:	St John's C of E Primary School,	

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Nominated Governor		Reasons For Nomination
Name:	Simon Mundy	<p>Simon Mundy has been a governor at Sir John Lawes School since 2004 and has seen the school go through many changes since then! During all that time, Simon's wise advice and calm approach to challenges have proved invaluable to senior leaders and other governors alike.</p> <p>Simon has led on many important areas for the governing body. He has always had a passion for the education of those with specific needs and so has held the role of SEN governor for many years. He has also had a massive impact on standards at the school, through his role on the Standards Committee, as part of which he quality assured all faculty reviews and his thoughtful questions and clarifications have often helped senior leaders improve their plans.</p> <p>When SJL first considered academy status, Simon chaired the group that took a lead on investigating the pros and cons and his detailed analysis of the (reams!) of documentation meant that we were confident when making our final decision. He also strongly supported our move to sponsor a failing school (now Samuel Ryder Academy) which many considered a risk at the time. Simon took over as Chair of the FGB in 2016 and also gave up his time to support the new Scholars' Trust by acting as a trustee of that group as it established itself.</p> <p>Since 2018, however, he has concentrated on his main role as Chair of the FGB at SJL, and as head, I always find his guidance and reassurance invaluable</p>
School:	Sir John Lawes School	

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Nominated Governor		Reasons For Nomination
Name:	Gillian Knibbs	<p>Gill has been instrumental in evolving the Governing Board following the 'Requires Improvement' Ofsted judgement in February 2017. Following this outcome, the Chair and several members of the Governing Board resigned leaving a depleted and demoralised group of volunteers.</p> <p>Gill stepped up to the role of Chair and begun to rebuild. She successfully recruited three new members by the end of July 2017. Her recruitment drive continued and two further members joined.</p> <p>Taking into account the report from the Governance Review, Gill restructured the meeting and committee schedule so that every meeting had all members in attendance with either a Finance / Resources focus, Improvement and Outcomes focus or Business focus. This ensured that all members had a full understanding of their roles and responsibilities as well as a competent understanding of the strengths and areas for development of the school.</p> <p>Gill's distributive, coaching leading style enabled other members to grow into their chairing positions knowing they were well supported by Gill. This has also enabled Gill to be pro-active regarding succession planning.</p> <p>Gill's leadership has enabled leadership to flourish and when recently reviewing the judgement against Ofsted criteria the Governing Board assessed themselves as securely 'good'.</p> <p>Gill has also successfully managed some very delicate scenarios.</p>
School:	The Reddings Primary School	

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Nominated Governor		Reasons For Nomination
Name:	Helen Simpson	<p>Helen's contribution and her impact on the school has been immense. Instrumental in developing a truly unique culture of volunteering and community engagement, she has worked closely with us, championing many projects. She helps us identify a strategic priority, then supports us in engaging the school community to carry it through and then sustain and develop it.</p> <p>Just one example is creating a Travel Group; engaging the school and our neighbours to promote safe, healthy, environmentally and community friendly travel to school. The proactive group comprises staff, governors, local residents, pupils and parents. They issue termly newsletters, tweet regularly, run walking bus routes and "Wheelie Weeks" to promote cycling/scooting. Our Junior Travel Ambassadors conduct regular patrols, issuing parking tickets to encourage everyone to follow our travel rules. In 2018 we achieved our Gold Modeshift Star award and have been nominated for a national travel award by HCC.</p> <p>Helen embodies our motto "Together rain or shine". In times of trouble, it is Helen that we naturally turn to. When one of our pupils was seriously injured and then tragically died, it was Helen that we immediately called in to help us with communication and how best to support the whole school community, in the midst of the tragedy.</p> <p>Helen has a unique ability to build confidence and empower everyone she deals with, whilst always leaving them striving to achieve more. Our school is a better place for having Helen as part of it; she makes us all better at our jobs.</p>
School:	Bridgewater Primary School	

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Nominated Governor		Reasons For Nomination
Name:	Rosemary Charsley	<p>Rosemary Charsley is an outstanding governor who has chaired with dedication and commitment for many years. She clerks all sub-committee meetings and is fully aware of everything that is going on, keeping us on our toes! Every year she meets each governor individually encouraging us and challenging our effectiveness as governors. She is regularly in school and was instrumental in inducting our new headteacher who does not know where she would be without her. She is the epitome of a critical friend and willingly gives her time to talk through issues. She offers her opinion but is fully supportive of any decisions that are made. Over the past year Rosemary has been seriously unwell but this has not stopped the school being her top priority. In fact, for our last meeting she had only been out of hospital for 48 hours but was determined that she would chair it, showing her tremendous commitment.</p> <p>Rosemary ran a school gardening club (until her period of ill-health) and the children loved growing their own produce. She is an advocate for the school at the Baldock forum and always makes decision based on what is best for our children. She is respected all.</p> <p>I have been a governor for over 20 years (only 3 at St Mary's) and have never met a more dedicated and exemplary governor. Our governing body is unanimous in nominating Rosemary for this award because we know St Mary's Junior School would not be the school it is without her.</p>
School:	St Mary's Junior School	

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Nominated Governor		Reasons For Nomination
Name:	Michael Wheeler	<p>Michael has worked as the Site Manager of Brandles for 16 years. He has previously been an Associate Governor for many years and is now a Full Governor. Alongside his day job, Michael is passionate about the “behind the scenes” work to help improve the school. His dedication and passion for the school is shown in the amount of time and effort he puts into the school ethos.</p> <p>Michael would use his knowledge to help support anyone within the school and the other governors to fulfil the requirements within their job role. Even though Michael is a Site Manager for the school, he will step outside of the job role boundaries to help the school succeed. He is a brilliant link from the school to the governors because of his knowledge and expertise within this specialised area. He is also a good voice box for the staff within the school and he is very approachable and reliable.</p> <p>Every member of staff and governing body really appreciate Michael’s input into his job because he is so passionate and knowledgeable and really does go above and beyond the expectations. His commitment into supporting governors is outstanding, especially during the recent months. Michael will go out to research different methods to help the school and will analyse data to help governors see the potential and flaws and put in actions to help the school succeed.</p> <p>In my eyes, Michael is a brilliant governor and needs to be recognised for this.</p>
Address:		
Email:		
Telephone:		
School	Brandles School (Special)	