



# VIKING ACADEMY TRUST

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## A message from Ramsgate Arts Primary School's Chair of Governors:

### Joanna Brand

On behalf of Ramsgate Art's Local Advisory Body (LAB) I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all new parents and carers and tell you a little more about the role of Governor's role within a school.

The Local Advisory Body (Governing Body) is made up of 'Local Governors'. Their function is to work with the Viking Academy Trust Board (\*) to:

- set the strategic direction, objectives, targets and policies\*;
- approve the school budget\*;
- review progress against the budget, school improvement plan and targets;
- act as a critical friend to the Head of School and senior staff by providing support and challenge;
- appoint the Head of School\*.

So 'local governors' make important decisions on policy and strategy and are answerable to parents and the wider community. They help raise the standards and performance of the school by supporting the work of the Head of School and the staff. Local Governors will support and, at the same time, challenge the Head of School by gathering views, asking questions and helping to decide what is best for the school.

#### How Does the 'Local Advisory Body' Work?

The LAB conducts most business via a framework of termly meetings, working closely with the Head of School, the Leadership Team and the Viking Trust Board. Meetings can also be called in order to discuss a particular item of business.



**Chilton Primary School**  
Mrs Kate Law ~ Head of School  
[www.chiltonprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.chiltonprimaryschool.co.uk)



**Ramsgate Arts Primary School**  
Mr Nicholas Budge ~ Head of School  
[www.ramsgateartsprimary.co.uk](http://www.ramsgateartsprimary.co.uk)



**Upton Junior School**  
Miss Darci Arthur  
~ Head of School  
[www.uptonjunior.com](http://www.uptonjunior.com)

Local Governors visit the school to monitor the actions the Head of School and staff have taken to drive school improvement and specific visits to school may be to look closely at a subject or area of school life (eg What do pupils think about the Behaviour Policy?). Local Governors meet with children and parents to seek views on the strengths and areas of development for Ramsgate Arts.

Most full meetings of the Local Advisory Body (LAB) are held after school, whilst the opportunity to meet during the day also exists for link governors.

Who is represented on Ramsgate Art's LAB?

- Parents - who are elected by other parents who have children attending the school.
- The Head of School and another member of staff elected by the teachers and non-teaching staff at the school.
- Co-opted Governors who can offer advice and support to the school.

Being a 'Local Governor' is a good way to be involved in the life and development of our school.

### Communicating with Local Governors

The Chair of Governors and Local Governors attend school events and host 'Parent Forums' across the school year. Please ask us about the role we play in school development, ask questions about aspects of school life or put forward suggestions for school improvement.

As Chair of Governors, I have a direct email address if you wish to contact me about a specific issue: [joanna.brand@vikingacademytrust.com](mailto:joanna.brand@vikingacademytrust.com) or you can contact me via the school office.

There is more information on the work of Governors on the school and Trust websites. If you are interested in joining our local governing body (LAB) please contact me.

I look forward to seeing you at various functions across the school year.

Yours sincerely

Jo Brand, **Chair of Governors**



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