



Wednesday 5 July 2023

Introduction: New Chair of the Petteril Bank School Local Advisory Board (LAB)

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a great pleasure to write my first letter to you as the new Chair of the Local Advisory Board (LAB) - sometimes also called a Governing Body - at Petteril Bank School. I was elected as Chair at the school's most recent Board meeting.

I am pleased to join the school community and lead its Board at such an exciting and important time as we continue to make substantial improvements to the school so that we can make a real difference to the children who attend Petteril Bank.

I believe that all children deserve access to a first-class education because we know that this improves their life chances and choices for the future. Therefore, I will, together with the other members of the school's Board and Headteacher, be working very hard on your behalf to make sure that this is the case for your children.

Before I became involved in education, I never fully understood the role of a Local Advisory Board. Some of you may feel the same, so I wanted to share with you some of our main responsibilities so that as parents you can see what we get up to behind the scenes to help your children:

- **School ethos/culture** - We work with the Headteacher to set the ethos of the school. The ethos of a school is everything you see, feel and hear about the school that forms your opinion of it. The ethos should reflect the school's values.
- **School improvement** – We work with the Headteacher to agree on a long-term plan to improve things such as safeguarding, the curriculum, teaching and learning, behaviour and attendance. We regularly review this with the Headteacher to check that progress is being made.
- **Monitoring visits** – We will regularly visit the school to visit lessons, meet with the Headteacher, staff and children to see how things are going in the school on a day-to-day basis, providing appropriate support and challenge to the Headteacher if we identify areas which need improvement.
- **Finance** – We regularly review the school's budget to ensure that money is being well managed and well spent, providing support and challenge when this is not the case.
- **Pupil exclusions** – We review some, but not all, pupil exclusions. For example, if a pupil is permanently excluded from school, we will review the case and decide if we agree with the Headteacher's decision or not.

I hope that gives you some idea of the Local Advisory Board's role at Petteril Bank. You can find out more about us, and put a face to a name, by visiting the school website.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know as many of you as possible over the coming months; working together to deliver a first-class education for the children of Petteril Bank so that they can 'Be the best they can be.'

I hope that you have a wonderful summer break when it arrives.

Yours sincerely,

Lee Garner

Chair, Local Advisory Board (LAB), Petteril Bank School