



# Athersley South Primary School

Wakefield Road, Barnsley, S71 3TP

Tel: 01226 284223

[www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk](http://www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs E. Sanderson

Deputy Headteacher: Mr J. Wheelwright



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope very much that you and your child(ren) are well and have settled back into school after half term. I am writing to you as Chair of Governors to provide some information that I think will be useful in supporting your understanding of the role of the Governing Body. I would also like to draw your attention to some key policies and procedures which are in place to support the successful operation of the school.

The Governing Body is made up of nine members, including Parent/Carer representatives who are nominated and chosen by yourselves when vacancies arise. There are three, formal meetings a year, one per term and additional committee meetings in between these. We also spend time in school throughout the year, undertaking 'Governor in School Days'. For clarity, the Governors have ultimate responsibility for all school matters and although they have an input, members of staff do not formulate the policies which govern the school. Some policies are ECM Academy Trust policies and we are directed to follow them by the Academy Trust. Some policies are developed and adopted at local Governing Body level. Policies are in place to ensure the school operates in a proper, legal and appropriate manner.

As with all policies, the Governors of Athersley South Primary School take the safeguarding of children and staff very seriously and have full responsibility for it overall. Bullying comes under the safeguarding umbrella as well as having a separate policy on its own. Just as you would wish us to protect your child, we have a duty and a responsibility to safeguard all members of the school community including children, staff and visitors to our school site and to support their health and mental wellbeing. To further support this, the Academy Trust has a social media policy. As the policy states, 'Social media and social networking sites play an important role in the lives of many people. We recognise that sites bring risks, but equally there are many benefits to be reaped'. Our safeguarding, anti-bullying and social media policy can be found on the school website [www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk](http://www.athersleysouth-primary.co.uk)

As Governors, we would seek to remind Parents and Carers that if you have any concerns about matters relating to the school then these should be raised. We would hope that these concerns are initially raised, in person, to the school in an informal manner and staff will seek, with yourselves, to investigate and resolve the concerns. However, should this not be the case, we also have a formal complaints policy which can also be found on the school website which explains the policy and procedures to follow.

Ultimately, as Governors we seek to ensure the school is able to support all children in achieving to the best of their ability and to make school an enjoyable, stimulating experience in a safe environment. We also have an expectation that in order to provide your child(ren) with the best possible experiences, the staff of the school should be able to work safely and not be subjected to inappropriate or abusive behaviour. As Governors we would like to thank you as Parents and Carers in anticipation of your support as we work together for the benefit of all ASPS children.

During the Parents Evenings this week, myself and other members of the Governing Body will be in attendance and we look forward to meeting yourselves.

Yours sincerely

Kath Bostwick  
Chair of Governors  
Athersley South Primary School.