

Dear Parent, Guardian, Carer,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to prospective parents, guardians and carers. We look forward to educating your son(s) and or daughter(s) at Southdale Junior School.

As the newly elected chair of Governors, I believe passionately that giving children the best education ensures that they get the best chance in life to thrive. There are many pieces of research around children achieving well in school connected with their ability to maintain relationships, build successful careers and generally contribute to society.

I have twenty five years' experience of working with children and young people in many different environments. I am a youth worker by trade but have had many years' experience of working closely with schools and the education system. I have been a Governor for seven years, firstly at South Ossett Infant Academy and latterly at Southdale.

Our Southdale vision is, which I entirely support :

'Shining like stars in the universe.' Philippians 2:15

Our number one aim for our Southdale family, is that we shine like stars in the universe in everything we do – we refer to this as the 'Southdale Sparkle'. We like a challenge, never give up easily and have the highest expectations of ourselves and others. Our Christian values underpin the life of our school and we constantly show kindness and respect, so that everyone feels happy, safe and valued.

In addition everything that the head and her team do daily to ensure all of our children are given the best possible chance to succeed.

The Governing body plays an important role in the life of the school, however, to be clear the Headteacher and the Senior Management team are responsible for the day to day operation of the school. The Governors have a legal responsibility to make sure all policies and procedures are in place and carried out correctly, and that the school is held to account for the delivery of high quality education to our children. I am now in place to be the link between the school and the Governing body.

One of my main aims as the Chair of Governors is to ensure that communication between school and home is as good as it possibly can be. I want to make sure that if you wish to get in touch regarding anything to do with the running of the school that you are fully aware of how to do this most effectively. You can make contact with the school in the first instance on admin@southdale.wakefield.sch.uk.

If you wish to contact me directly, about anything which you feel that I need to deal with, you can contact me on chair@southdale.wakefield.sch.uk. My colleague Steve Hogger has recently been elected as Vice chair, should you wish to contact him directly please email s.hogger@southdale.wakefield.sch.uk . Steve also has a good background in education, having been in charge of ICT for Schools at the Dept for Education for 10+ years.

Mr V Foster

Chair of Governors