On behalf of the Governing Body, I extend a warm welcome to our school family at Southdale C of E Junior School. I have been elected by my fellow governors to chair the full Governing Body for the next 12 months. I bring to my new role an extensive background in education over the last 46 years: as a teacher, a Headteacher and, in recent years, as an educational adviser.

The main role of our Governing Body is to set the school’s long-term goals and to monitor its performance against them. Governors act as ‘critical friends’ to the school’s leadership and staff, balancing monitoring and challenge with genuine support for our dedicated team of education professionals.

As individuals, we bring a wide range of skills and experience to the Governing Body, but we have a common aim – to ensure that Southdale continues to be recognised as an excellent school, with children’s well-being and achievement at its heart. Children flourish when they can learn together in a safe, caring and stimulating environment. They grow in confidence and gain a positive self-esteem, enabling them to meet new challenges and to persevere until they succeed. Working together as a team, staff, pupils, parents and governors, we can ensure that we enable all of our pupils to achieve their full potential and to leave us as caring and creative young people.

I am very excited to have been invited to join your Governing Body. I come into school on a very regular basis and my email address is Chair@southdale.wakefield.sch.uk, so please feel welcome to contact me at any time to share your children’s successes and any concerns.

Jean Ross, Chair of Governors