

St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School Governors' Newsletter

December 2014

Issue 1

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Mission Statement

Following consultation with pupils and parents, our new mission statement is :

Love Jesus

Love Learning

Love Life

Welcome to your new Governor Newsletter

Let's get to know each other.

As Governors, we are always looking for ways to improve the experience of learning for our school community.

We feel that we should work hard to communicate with parents and all other school stakeholders so that everybody knows just how well our school is performing and what our priorities are to ensure that we continue to provide the best learning environment possible for our children.

This newsletter is the first step we are taking in improving our communication with you. We intend to publish the newsletter at the start of each academic year and then on a termly basis. In this way the information you receive will be up to date and completely relevant to your child's current learning experience within the school,

Our role

The Governing Body is crucial for the effective leadership and management of the school. The Governing body at our school complements the professional leadership of the Head-teacher, Mr. Hughes and senior staff by bringing a range of perspective to bear on issues facing the school.

The full Governing Body meets termly. Additionally Governors are members of one of two committees; Children's Achievement and Premises Committee and Finance and Personnel Committee. Each committee meets three times each year and then reports to the Full Governing Body. There is a separate pay committee which meets annually.

Class Governors

Each Governor has a link with a class. We will visit the class as often as we can and will follow the class through school. (The class/Governor links are shown below in brackets.)

Speak to us

If anybody has any views on how we could improve communication further please do let us know.

Joanne Heffernan

Parent Governor



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Meet your School Governors



Chair

Mrs Colette Winterburn (Y3)

Vice Chair

Mr Francis Kwateng (YR)

Foundation Governors

Mrs Rose Price (Y2)

Mrs Maria Lavelle (Y1)

Ms Gemma Fleming (Y6)

Mrs Kathleen Leahey (Y4)

Deacon Tony Hunt (Y3)

One vacancy

Staff Governors

Mrs Anne Davies

Mr Robert Hughes

Miss Karen Thwaite

Mrs Christine Atkinson

Elected Parent Governor

Mrs Joanne Heffernan (Y5)

LA Governor

Mr Mark Lightburn

Our photographs have been put up in reception. If you see us come and say hello!

Ofsted Action: Moving from Good to Outstanding

A good school where behavior and safety of pupils is outstanding.

This was the judgment of Ofsted when they inspected our school in June 2013; a result to be proud of.

That said, we never want to stand still. Our children deserve the very best education and we are fortunate that our school has the ability to provide this.

The school has taken on board the constructive observations of Ofsted and is striving to further improve the school in each key area of development.

In particular:

- There is a real focus on improving teaching and learning across the school from good to outstanding;
- Different techniques are being explored to ensure that teachers are providing constructive advice for pupils when they mark work;
- Pupils are now being given improved opportunity to use their targets to improve their work. Additional time in lessons is being put aside to enable pupils to act on advice when it is given in their teachers marking;
- The Governing Body set up a working party to review their

roles/responsibilities to ensure a robust system was put in place to hold school leaders to account;

- A formal review process of pupil progress has been enacted.

Of course, effective change cannot happen overnight, but the teaching staff in our school are committed to achieving fantastic results for our children and the Governing body are monitoring the changes closely.

Did you know that the new National Curriculum commenced in September 2014?

Report from Children's Achievement & Premises Committee

New National Curriculum

This was implemented in September 2014 and the school has worked very hard to develop a diverse, exciting and challenging curriculum for the children,

Staff & Governor Training

All teachers have attended training on implementing the new curriculum for literacy and numeracy and further sessions are planned. The Chair of Gover-

nors and Head-teacher attended the Annual Governors Conference on 11th October 2014 and found the content valuable.

Pupil Data

We keep a tight focus on data and progress in the classroom. Data sheets are reviewed each term; and discussion takes place about expected progress versus actual progress in reading, writing and maths. Governors could see

that pupil progress was good to outstanding across the school.

In summer we had a visit from the School Improvement Partner and he was very complimentary about the continued progress of the school.



Francis Kwateng, Chair



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Report from Finance & Personnel Committee

Finance

The school continues to be managed superbly in line with its planned forecast and budgets. The school business manager Mrs Mills puts in a great deal of hard work to ensure this.

We have highlighted a number of spending priorities for the forthcoming year including:

- Literacy and numeracy resources;
- Replacement dictionaries & atlases;

- Art & Literacy consultancy projects;
- Music tuition
- More ipads & additional Wi-Fi points

Staffing

There are no planned changes. This academic year we added an additional teaching assistant to the school and her input is proving invaluable not least in relation to providing children with regular reading support.

Pay Committee



With effect from 2015 a pay committee and pay appeals committee will be put in place and will have responsibility for performance reviews and pay.

Mark Lightburn, Chair



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The Governing Body is now looking in strategic ways at the future of our school. Our "good" Ofsted outcome has given us the opportunity to reflect on how we want to develop and continue to improve.

Working party group

We set up a working party to evaluate the roles of governors with special responsibilities. As a result each year

group now has a class governor (shown on Page 1) and that governor will be involved in class targets and achievement and will follow their group of children as they move through the school. Ask your child who their class governor is.

Raising our profile

We want to communicate better with parents and all partners of the school. In addition to this termly newsletter we intend to:

- Improve the school website;
- Be visible and approachable at all school events;
- Make termly visits to the school/ classes for link governors

- Establish a governor suggestion box
- Update the noticeboard

If you have any ideas to improve communications between ourselves and parents, please share these with us.

We have a dedicated page on the school website, please login and follow the link to our question page—we will answer if we can!

Chair's action

Our Chair of Governors meets with the Head-teacher on a regular basis to review any issues which arise in school while also keeping abreast of the day to day management of the school.

Advent: A time for Reflection & Preparation

As we enter the Season of Advent and begin to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, it is also a good time for personal reflection.

I have been reflecting on the life and ministry of our wonderful school. For just over two years now it has been my special joy to be the deacon serving this parish and school. More recently I have also been serving on the Board of Governors.

For myself and Fr. Louis it is always a great joy to spend time around school. The welcome from the staff, children and families is always fantastic. Our school is truly representative of everything that a Catholic School should be and as such reminds us of the presence of the Lord Jesus both in our community and in each and every one of us. Together with Fr. Louis I look forward to continuing to serve the "school family". I will seek to be present and

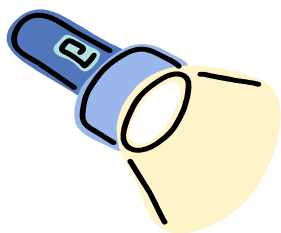
active in the life of the school and I wish to stress that I remain always available and open to every member of this special family.

Please be assured that as we journey through Advent and into the Holy Season of Christmas you and your families will be very much in my thoughts and prayers.

Wishing you all every joy and blessing of the season.

**Deacon Tony,
Religious Education Governor**

"Our School is truly representative of everything a Catholic School should be"



Governor in the spotlight

I joined the School Governing body in November 2008 as a Foundation Governor and

following the retirement of Father Peter Phillips, in 2013 I was appointed Chair.

Born in Lancashire, I moved to Ellesmere Port some 20 years ago with my husband Ian. My daughter Helen attended St Mary's Primary School before moving on to Ellesmere Port Catholic High School where she is currently studying for her GCSE A Levels.

A lifelong Liverpool F.C. supporter, I also enjoy Tennis (more watching than playing these days!),

I have a love of Motorsport (especially Forest Rallying) and cooking, especially trying out new recipes.

I am an active member of the parish and of the Parents Association at the Catholic High School. I also help out at the LPA Youth Group.

Since taking over the role of Chair of Governors, I have worked alongside our Headteacher, Mr Hughes, to implement a number of positive changes to the way the Governing Body operates and gets involved in school life.

I meet with Mr Hughes on a regular basis to discuss school successes and any issues that require attention. I am often about the school so please do come and meet me,



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**Colette Winterburn,
Chair of Governors**

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Communication

Good Communication is vital to our school and we are constantly striving to make it as easy as possible to stay in touch:

In person: If you just need a quick word, please feel free to approach your class teacher at the start or end of each school day. If you would like a bit more time to discuss something in particular you may like to book some time with your teacher to suit you both, If you would like to meet with our Headteacher, Mr. Hughes you can pop into the school office and make an appointment.

Email: This is a great way for you to contact the school office, your teacher or the Head-teacher. Mrs. Mills or Mrs. Wilson in the office will always forward your emails confidentially to the intended recipient.

Our school email address is admin@stmaryoftheangels.cheshire.sch.uk

By Phone: One of the office staff will always be available to answer any query, pass on a message or arrange a good time for your teacher to call you back.

Our telephone number is 0151 338 2430

Text & email messages: Tell us your mobile number and email address and we'll keep you informed of all urgent or important messages by text and email.

Website: We've got a great website that is kept right up to date. Please visit it regularly to see the latest pictures of school trips, terms dates, calendar of events, school successes and Governor information. Our Governor page has a link to a blog where you can post questions . We will respond!

Headteacher Governor

As Headteacher Governor, I would like to thank all governors, on your behalf. Governors carry out their role on a VOLUNTARY basis. They take on significant legal responsibilities, including; being the legal employers of all staff; being responsible for all buildings issues; they are the legal admissions body for this school; and they are responsible for setting/agreeing the annual school budget.

The Local Authority governor is appointed by Cheshire West and Chester Council.
Staff governors are appointed from volunteers within the school.
Foundation Governors are appointed by Bishop Mark Davies, Bishop of Shrewsbury.
The Chair and Vice Chair are elected from within the governing body.
Parent governors are elected by parents at the school.

The headteacher is responsible for all day to day running of the school; while the governors provide a strategic overview of education

And finally....

On behalf of all the Governors, I would like to thank you all for the support that you shown in helping your children with their learning and your support for the school, attending meetings, fundraising events etc.

Also, thank you to everyone in school who work so hard in their respective roles to make St Mary of the Angels the very special place that it is.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Winterburn

