



## Governors' Newsletter

November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers I hope you all had a good half-term holiday and were able to take advantage of the milder than usual October weather and had an opportunity to get out into the fresh air with your children.

At the end of each school year I usually write to you with news of what we, the governors, have been doing during the year and give you information about our plans for the forthcoming year. However, you didn't get a letter from me in the Summer mainly because our role last year was one of support for Ms Kelsey and the staff as they worked tirelessly to manage the measures imposed by the pandemic so we didn't get an opportunity to carry out our plans for the year. This said, we were very pleased to see how much the external decoration to the school, planned last year and carried out this Summer, has improved the look of the building.



For a year, between Spring 2020 and early Summer 2021 all our governors' meetings were remote and we only saw each on screen or spoke on the telephone so it was really good to re-instate actual meetings in July this year, particularly as some of us had never met in person. This is because there have been several changes in governors' membership recently. Four governors left during between July 2020 and March 2021, due to work commitments, and we welcomed new governors to the board. We were also delighted to be able to get back into school and to see and talk to the children and their teachers at work.

As there have been several changes I thought it would be useful for you to have an update on who's who and what we all do.

Governors	Governor status	Roles and Responsibilities
Helen Arnold	Foundation Governor	Co-Vice Chair of Governors, Chair of the Staffing and Pay Committee, member of the Teaching and Learning Committee
Ann Bennett	Foundation Governor	Member of the Staffing and Pay Committee, and the Church and Ethos Working Group
Zoe Billington	Co-opted Governor	Co-Vice Chair of Governors, Chair of the Resources Committee
Joanne Clarke	Parent Governor	Member of the Teaching and Learning Committee

Geoff Crosta	Co-opted Governor	Member of the Teaching and Learning Committee and the Resources Committee
Denise Harber	Local Authority Governor	Chair of Governors, Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, member of the Staffing and Pay Committee
Dan Holmes	Staff Governor	Member of the Teaching and Learning Committee and the Church and Ethos Working Group
Laura Kelsey	Headteacher , Ex-Officio Governor	Member of all Governors Committees
Kerri Potter	Parent Governor	Member of the Resources Committee and the Church and Ethos Working Party
Rev Carl Smith	Foundation Ex-Officio Governor	Member of the Staffing and Pay Committee and the Church and Ethos Working Group

This year we hope that, whilst continuing to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and staff, we will be able to focus on supporting staff to make the curriculum and teaching at St Mark's even more lively and interesting for all the children. We also want to be more 'visible' and accessible to you, the parents, so that you can share your thoughts about the school with us. We want to know what you like about the school and we want to hear about any ideas you may have for making things even better. I had the pleasure of meeting a number of parents at the parent consultation sessions before half-term and I found your feedback and ideas on that occasion very informative and helpful.





There will usually be at least one governor in or near the playground on Tuesday mornings, (before and after church), and we will attend school events such as the Christmas Fair, the Nativity and the Carol Concert and be at parent consultation sessions. A governor will also be in the playground on some afternoons at the end of the school day. On those occasions we will wear our badges so that you can see who we are. You can also make contact with us through the school office and we look forward to hearing from you. *(Please note this is not intended to replace the usual procedures in place for you to discuss matters about your child(ren) with class teachers or the headteacher, nor is it intended to replace the complaints procedures. These matters will continue to be dealt with according to school policies as before.)*

In conclusion, I want to say a huge thank you to you all for the very positive ways in which you have worked with and continue to help our wonderful staff to educate and support your children as they do often in extremely difficult circumstances. I look forward to speaking to many of you in the months to come and I hope to be able to write to you in the Summer term with lots of information about our work this year.

I hope you and your children keep safe and happy and enjoy the rest of the school year.

Yours Sincerely

Denise Harber,  
Chair of Governors