



## Governors' Newsletter

June 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Following a discussion at the full governing body meeting last term about some questions we have been asked about our role and the work we do, it was agreed that we, the governors of St Mark's should write a newsletter for parents and carers to keep you informed about our work.

We thought that twice yearly would be the right frequency and will aim to write a letter in the middle of the Autumn term and another around the Summer half term break. We will include information about what we have done since the last newsletter and our plans for the coming term. We won't be repeating anything that is on the regular newsletter you receive from The Headteacher, but we will tell you about what we have done and we'll pass on any other items of interest.

This letter is, of course, a little different as it is our first. We decided to start by saying who we are and outlining our roles on the governing body.



| Name           | Type of Governor         | Roles  |
|----------------|--------------------------|--|
| Helen Arnold   | Foundation               | Vice-Chair of Governors, Chair of the Staffing and Pay Committee and SEND Governor   |
| Ann Bennett    | Foundation               | Member of the Staffing and Pay Committee and the Teaching and Learning Working Party   |
| Geoff Crosta   | Associate                | Member of the Resources Committee and The Teaching and Learning Working Party  |
| Denise Harber  | Local Authority          | Chair of Governors, Chair of the Teaching and Learning Working Party and member of the Staffing and Pay Committee  |
| Helen Hughes   | Parent                   | Chair of the Resources Committee   |
| Penny Kennedy  | Ex-officio               | Headteacher and member of The Staffing and Pay Committee, The Resources Committee, The Church and Ethos Working Party and The Pupil Outcomes Working Party |
| Alison Roden   | Staff                    | Member of The Pupil Outcomes Working Party   |
| Laura Sykes    | Parent                   | Safeguarding Governor<br>Member of The Church and Ethos Working Party and The Teaching and Learning Working Party  |
| Rev Carl Smith | Ex-officio<br>Foundation | Member of The Church and Ethos Working Party and The Staffing and Pay Committee  |
| Diana Stuart   | Co-opted                 | Member of the Staffing and Pay Committee and The   |

|              |                        |  |
|--------------|------------------------|--|
|              |                        | Pupil Outcomes Working Party   |
| Kaye Whiting | Co-opted               | Member of the Resources Committee and The Pupil Outcomes Working Party |
| Lynda White  | Clerk to the Governors |  |

More information about us, including our professional experience and interests, is included on the school website.

During the vacancy in the parish prior to the arrival of the Rev Carl Smith, our new rector, Bernie French, who regularly supports the school by leading worship, kindly agreed to act as a temporary member of the governing body. We are very grateful to Bernie for all his help and his support in this role and in his commitment to our school and the children.

### The role of the governing body

We all live in or near Staplefield and, as governors, we work as a team in partnership with the Headteacher and staff to ensure that the school provides a good quality education and pastoral care for all pupils. Raising educational standards in school is a key priority for us as is developing the Christian ethos of the school, and it is our duty to promote effective ways of teaching and learning when setting the school aims and policies. We do this together with The Head teacher, who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school, and we follow a Governors' Action Plan to monitor progress towards the school's aims and objectives. This plan is updated annually.



At St Mark's we hold two full governing body meetings a term and we have two committees, The Resources Committee and the Staffing and Pay Committee. In addition we have three working parties, the Teaching and Learning Working Party, The Pupil Outcomes Working Party, and The Church and Ethos Working Party, and much of our work is done through the committees and working parties.

The Governing Body is accountable to parents, the local community, the Local Authority and, because this is a Church of England school, to the Diocese of Chichester. Governor appointments are for three or usually for four years.

In this academic year we have been even busier than usual because we had to appoint a new headteacher. This took a considerable amount of thought, time and work because we fully appreciated the importance of the task and we wanted to ensure that the recruitment process was careful and thorough. We are pleased that there was such a good response to our advert from well-qualified and experienced school leaders, and we believe that Ms Kelsey will lead the school successfully in the next phase of its development.

In addition to the appointment of the new headteacher, and the activities we undertake in governors' meetings, (which are recorded in Governing Body Minutes that are on the school website), we have:

- taken part in a careers 'carousel' to inform older pupils about different occupations
- reviewed samples of pupils' work with the Headteacher
- reviewed curriculum planning for science
- reviewed provision for pupils with special and additional needs, with the school's Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator
- updated the school travel plan
- met with the inspector who conducted the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections
- accompanied groups of pupils on school visits

- attended worship and a range of school social and cultural events
- supported school clubs and Forest Schools activities
- attended termly monitoring visits by the local authority's Link Adviser
- taken part in the FOSM Quiz Night
- upgraded and improved the school field

Our plans for the rest of this year include:

- continuing to monitor the school budget carefully and maintain the financial health of the school and ensure that resources are used well
- continuing to support school and social events
- improving the school premises, notably by refurbishing the pupil toilets and dealing with a range of small works to keep the building and grounds safe, secure and good to work in
- continuing to hold the school to account for outcomes for all pupils
- working with pupils and finding out about their experiences at school

We look forward to meeting you at many of the events that will take place later this term.

Yours Sincerely

The Governors





Living the Olympic  
and Paralympic Values