



St Clement's Catholic Primary School

Governors' Newsletter– Summer 2017



Message from Chair of Governors

I would like to welcome David Rowles (foundation governor) who joined the Governing Body in the Autumn Term. We look forward to working with him in supporting the school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank on behalf of all the Governors, the hard working staff at the school for all they do for St Clement's.

Michael Davies

The Governors' Fund Explained

In the 1944 Education Act provision was made for Church schools called Voluntary Aided (VA). These schools would be managed by Governors appointed by the Bishop, known as Foundation Governors - these governors must make up the majority of the whole governing body.

The Governors of the Voluntary Aided schools have a strategic and non-operational role, and are responsible for maintaining the distinctive nature of the school (Catholicism), the appointment of the senior staff and a percentage of the building costs. The governors are required to have a fund to cover the percentage of building costs and ongoing external maintenance. In recent years, the government has gradually reduced the contribution to 10%. Therefore, when you accept a place at the school you are making a commitment to support the school in a manner that you feel is appropriate given the school's Voluntary Aided status and distinctive nature.

The 10% contribution we are responsible for allows us the privilege of having a state supported Catholic school. To achieve the St Clement's School Governor's fund we require the financial support of the families with children attending St Clement's School, in the form of a monthly contribution and the suggested amount is £10 per family per month. Parents can contribute by signing a one-off standing order form available from the office. Income tax payers who sign the Gift Aid form allow the school to claim an additional 20% back from the government. All contributions are voluntary and totally confidential. We would like to express our gratitude to the families who already contribute and would encourage the others to consider helping us.

Father Graham Bamford—Foundation Governor

School Uniform

Mrs Buckley informed parents last year that there would be some discussion by Governors to consider some minor changes to the school uniform. The change that has been agreed is that all children will be expected to wear a white embroidered polo shirt—infants throughout the year and juniors as part of their summer uniform. This change will be clarified and issued by the school shortly along with any possible change in sourcing uniform.

Mr David Rowles

My name is David Rowles and I was very pleased to be appointed by Bishop Richard as a new Foundation Governor at St Clement's. I am now largely retired but a career spent in education - as a teacher, inspector and finally a lecturer at the University of Roehampton - means that I am keen to remain involved and to keep up date in an ever-changing educational world .

I have always been very interested in teaching and learning and have served on a number of governing bodies and it is good to become linked to a new school. I have already been to several meetings and I am very impressed by the way that the governors are kept well informed by the headteacher and by the business-like manner in which meetings are conducted. I have also had the opportunity to attend two sessions of seeing the school 'at work' and I found the way the children responded to the teaching they were receiving most encouraging.

Years ago I lived in Stoneleigh and was a parishioner at St Clement's Church but I now live in Banstead and attend St Ann's

Church and until fairly recently was a governor at the school of (almost) the same name - St Anne's! I am now looking forward to getting to know St Clement's better and that will include fellow governors, the staff, the children and - hopefully - at least some of the parents .

Governor Monitoring

As part of our monitoring of the school, representatives of the Governing Body visit the school regularly. Last term's visit had a special focus on the teaching and learning of geography and history—this term's focus is reading.

We regularly review data presented by the senior leadership team and we undergo training in order to be able to interpret and understand the data. There have been many changes in curriculum recently and we endeavour to keep abreast of these myriad changes in order to remain as effective as possible.

Parent Governor Election

There will be a vacancy for a parent governor and an election will take place in due course. There are currently a lot of changes taking place in school governorship and governing bodies need people with skills and enthusiasm to ensure good governance. Being a governor does entail giving up some of your free time, but it can also be a very rewarding role. We will be aiming to 'recruit' a Parent Governor with a specific skillset to complement the existing skillset—parents will be informed shortly about the election process. In the meantime, if you are interested in finding out more, please contact either Michael Davies or Mrs Buckley via the office.