

## Governors Newsletter Spring 2019

Hello, my name is Chris Moore. I was appointed as a community governor at Ravensbury Community School last year and as the Rector of St Cross Church I also live and work in the community of the school area. A little bit about me... I grew up in a small hamlet in Staffordshire. In 1991 I left home to read Sociology and Religious Studies at Stirling University in Scotland. In 1996 I moved to London to pursue an MA in Christian Ethics and then a PGCE with Religious Education. From 1999 - 2011 I taught RE in two London secondary schools before leaving to retrain for the priesthood in Cambridge and Yale. I was ordained deacon in 2013 and priested in 2014. I served my curacy in Croydon and was appointed Rector of St Cross Church, Clayton in March 2017.

Having been a governor in my previous parish (Croydon Minster), I know how important

and rewarding the role of Governor can be. Schools need governing bodies that have a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to enable them to be effective. As an ex secondary school teacher and now the parish priest of St Cross, I believe I can be most effective in engaging with pupils, staff, parents and the school community. As such the area of responsibility I have been allocated is 'parental engagement'. This means working with the school to build positive relationships with parents and identifying interventions that are effective in supporting and improving parental involvement. As a governor I continue to work closely with Mrs Roberts in school managing a Food Bank and **identifying and referring families whose children attend the school.**

This has been a real privilege and it has allowed me to get to know some of the children who attend the school as well as their parents and carers. In my dual role as governor and Rector of St Cross Church, I, together with members of St Cross Church, St Wilibrord's Church, North Road Methodist Church, HMHC and One Manchester [have come together to form a CIO \(Charitable Incorporated Organisation\) in a bid to claim the lease to Barrington Street Community Centre from Manchester County Council.](#) We are keen to see the building reopen and its potential maximized in serving the local community by providing a range of services, including services which would be of benefit to local families.



## What Do Governors Do ?

As well as attending Governing Body meeting, Governors take part in wide range of activities across the school. Here are some of the fantastic things governors will be involved in this term:

- School visits and observation, including safety and behaviour in school at lunchtimes.
- Observations of lessons across the school
- Attending pupil progress meetings
- Review the school's Health and Safety Procedures
- We also try our best to attend as many events as possible, such as the Christmas productions.
- Attend parents evenings

The school governors are delighted with the new breakfast club which can now accommodate 60 children.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all the children and parents for their continued support and we hope that together we can make our children confident, happy and successful learners.

### Governors List

- Josie Elson - Chair
- Adam Holmes —Vice Chair
- Karen Jarman—LA Governor
- Jo Wendt—Staff Governor
- Danielle Battick-Parent Governor
- Tom Williams-Community Governor
- Vacancy-Community Governor
- Jannette Hammerton—Staff Governor
- Nicola Richardson-Staff Governor
- Maureen Hughes—Headteacher
- Renee Forest—Parent Governor
- Vacancy —Community Governor
- Emma Green—Community Governor
- Father Christopher Moore—Community Governor
- Jenny Adie -Clerk
- Louise Thewlis—Associate Governor

### Special Points of Interest:

Parents evening dates

Tuesday 19th March  
3.30pm—6pm for Key Stage 1 plus 5HC

Wednesday 20th March  
3.30pm—6pm for

Families and Year 6

Thursday 21st March  
3.30pm-6pm for Key Stage 2



## What Governors Do?

1. Setting the school's strategic direction and priorities, and ensuring all statutory duties are met.
2. Acting as a 'critical friend,' supporting the headteacher and holding her to account for the school's day-to-day running.
3. Overseeing the school's financial performance and ensuring the budget is well spent.

Governors don't get involved in the everyday operation of the school; that the hands

is in the hands of Mrs Hughes and her Senior Leadership Team. Our role is mainly to help shape the strategic direction and priorities of the school and help drive those priorities forward. We meet as a whole Governing Body several times a year. In addition to this, two sub-committees meet and each has a particular focus on different areas of school life.

1. **Achievement and Inclusion**
2. **Resources**

Much of the work is done in these committees, and each one will meet once or twice over term. In addition to these meetings, some of us also have roles to oversee different aspects of school

life (eg. Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Special Educational Needs). The work of the Board of Governors helps ensure that staff can get on with doing what they do best—educating our pupils to a high standard but at the same time creating time and space to do this.



## Feedback from Parents



Our parents evenings in November were a great success with more than 92% of parents and families attending.

This means that the families of 442 children were involved in talking about progress, looking at children's work and celebrating their children's success.

You gave governors some really positive feedback about the evening and your thoughts about the school.

Here are some of the things you said:

The stay and play sessions work really well and helped my little girl to settle into nursery

I recommended this school to other families and now they come here too

My 2 children are very different from each other but the school meets the need of both of them

My children cant wait to go to school in the morning

Our next parents evenings are coming up in March, we are hoping that even more parents and families will be able to get to one of the evenings, especially now the nights are getting lighter.

Governors will be there to meet parents to listen to your comments about the school and suggestions you have about community involvement. Bring your child/ren with you to the parents evenings, children love to share their work and talk about what they are learning. Parents coming into school is a great motivator for children.

**Come and find out about your child's progress.**

If you cant make it on any of the dates in March please contact the school to arrange another time.

### SIMS Pay

On Wednesday 20th March during the family parents evening you can find out more about the school's new online payment system—Sims Pay. This will allow parents to pay online for meals, milk, trips and other items. Nicola Richardson School Business Manager will be available to demonstrate the new system and help parents set up accounts.



### Coffee and Cake with the Headteacher

Thanks to everyone who has attended one of the cake and coffee mornings.

The next one is on 28.03.2019 to discuss assessment for learning.

We hope you can attend as your opinion is important to how the school develops.