



Learning Together



Newport Church of England (VA) Primary School

Hazel Close, Carisbrooke Meadows, Newport, Isle of Wight. PO30 5GD

Tel: 01983 522826

Fax 01983 528016

e mail: school@newportcofe.com

Executive Headteacher : Katherine Marshall

Chair of Governors : Rod Warne

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Chair of Governors Update

It's almost Easter and again a huge amount of work by our leadership team, staff and governors has taken place.

On Monday the full governing body met to deal with a whole host of items, ratification of policies and other operational matters which was in stark contrast to the Chairs training course I attended the following day on Tuesday. The latter gave me time to give preference to the bigger picture with regard to the relationship between governance (leading) and running the school (day to day management by staff). It was very useful to explore the fact that governance goes largely unnoticed by parents and is almost invisible when things are going well!

We want to make sure that governance is seen as an integral part of school life and it is important that parents feel as though the staff have backing and support. So what can we do to raise the profile? Firstly I wish to introduce myself properly. It's been a very busy time since federation last July and now is a good time to let you know who you have as your chair.

I was born on the Island, attended local schools in Newport and left school at 16 for a full time Mechanical Technician apprenticeship at Plessey Radar. After six years I became a full time fire fighter.

I then joined Medina Borough Council and started my 30 year local government career. I studied civil engineering, surveying and gained management qualifications along the way.

I have experience in property management, highways, leisure and for the last 17 years insurance and risk management involving investigation, fraud detection, financial management and emergency planning.

Both my daughters attended Carisbrooke Primary which is why I became a governor eight years ago. I am passionate about children's education and extend that passion to running the 1st Newport Scout Group which I have been a member of for 42 years.

I was elected to the position of Chair when the Federation of Carisbrooke and Newport came in to being in July 2016.

My hobbies include Scouting activities, riding and restoring motorcycles, watching motorcycle racing, local and Island history, genealogy, juggling and many more.

On the course we were reminded that 'nothing worthwhile is easy' and we have been carrying out lots of work to ensure that our children in both schools are getting the best education possible.

So what have we been doing? We are growing the federation in terms of its strength and resilience. Link governors meetings have taken place with senior staff, safeguarding reviews and training has taken place, relationships with the preschools on both school sites are being nurtured, several governors have undertaken training specific to their roles, processes are being streamlined and we are learning from each other in terms of the wealth of experience available.

That also applies to staff in that cross school working is developing giving opportunities for professional development and enrichment in terms of staff experience.

Unfortunately however we have lost a few governors who have resigned due to work commitments or personal circumstances. I would like to put on public record the work that has been done by Rachel Dominey, Carolyn Brenchley and James Netherway. We are therefore looking to recruit from within the community and we need people with skills in certain curriculum areas. A separate communication from Katherine Marshall will detail this but if anybody would like an informal chat about joining the team please contact me. The benefits of being a governor can be huge and is a great way to be involved in school life.

Part of my role is horizon scanning and succession planning too so I hope to be able to carry out some work on this in the near future. We are on track to receive an Ofsted visit at both schools before September and with this complete we can continue to build the federation as it nears its first anniversary.

Rod Warne
Chair of Governors