



## Sutton Benger CE Primary School Governor Spotlight

May  
2017

*Strive, Believe, Succeed! We strive to do our best, believe in the values of God and succeed together...in peace*

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### **Sutton Benger School Vision Statement**

To provide a creative curriculum and inspiring learning environment which encourages every child to reach their potential by becoming a confident, self-motivated and independent learner. Through purposeful leadership and effective communication we strive to give all our pupils the lifelong gift of prayer and the certainty that they are loved and valued.

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### **Building work update**

You will be aware that in September 2016 we took the decision to move to seven classes with Faith being the new class. Fortunately, the Y4 cohort was our smallest cohort and we were able to accommodate this group in the small room at the end of the corridor, previously known as the 'learning lab'.

We have been in close contact with the Local Authority (LA) and the Bristol Diocese regarding new planning applications in the village which might affect our pupil numbers. The LA has confirmed that over the next few years we will need to retain seven classes. We have consulted with the Diocese (who are responsible for the buildings as we are a Church of England school) to discuss how to increase our classroom space. We are mindful of the impact that rising numbers could have on facilities, e.g. toilets, hall and kitchen space.

A bid has been submitted to the Diocese to increase the size of Faith class, build additional internal toilets and change the entrance arrangements. We have been allotted funding of £40 000, alongside some capital funding from the LA. The total figure is still to be confirmed and governors are having ongoing discussions about the most efficient way to take the project forward. As soon as we know more we will let you know.

On another note, the playground development is back underway and is due to be completed by half term.

### **National picture around academisation and collaboration with other schools**

As you know we are collaborating with Oaksey CE Primary School and the Hobbes Alliance, and continue to meet regularly to discuss the government's ongoing academy agenda, and how we ensure we are in the best position to shape our own destiny, and safeguard the ethos and values of Sutton Benger School. Alongside other schools locally, we are in talks with the Diocese of Bristol Academy Trust (DBAT), to explore the mutual benefits of joining their Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). No decisions have been made and every conversation continues to be grounded in having the best interests of the children and families of the community at heart.

### **Becoming a Sutton Benger School Governor - we have vacancies on our Governing Body**

School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. They set the school's strategic direction, aims and objectives, and monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achieving them. Governors attend 6 full governing body meetings a year (these are two hour evening meetings) as well as doing some reading to prepare for these meetings. Most governors are also a member of a sub-committee which meet 3 or 6 times a year.

We currently have two foundation governor and one parent governor vacancy - to find out more about the role of a governor or to express an interest in joining, please make contact with us.

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## Governor Profile: Mel Knight



I always felt inclined to 'do my bit' as a Governor out of a sense of gratitude for the really wonderful free education my son is getting. However, it never felt quite the right time as life can get so overwhelmingly busy and I didn't feel too confident about what I could contribute as a Governor nor what would be expected of me.

I had a bit of a shift in my thinking after Christmas and realised that I have a growing passion for better understanding the academic system for primary children in this country. There are many other models of primary schools and curriculums around the country and abroad that I would like to know more about and see if we can amalgamate the positives from them here in Sutton Benger!

If I can play a supportive role in enabling teachers to teach from the heart and for children to learn naturally in the way that individually suits them best, then I will be grateful for the opportunity.

As I work closely with primary children through being a childminder, and an MDSA at the school, plus volunteering in Dove Class, I have a vested interest in the care and welfare of all children. I love my jobs!

I am newly appointed (March 2017) - I will attend FGBs and in due course will align myself with a sub-committee that I feel drawn to contribute to.

There is a lot of decision-making going on behind the scenes and it is insightful understanding how hard our headteachers and governors are working to safeguard the future autonomy and excellence of our school. I look forward to getting to the stage where I can make a positive contribution too.

Mel Knight

## Members of the Governing Body

Louise Pitman-Jones	Associate Headteacher
Ursula Scott	Executive Headteacher
Katie Brown (chair)	Foundation Governor
Joan Cocker	Foundation Governor
Rev Alison Love	Foundation Governor
Dan Robertson	Foundation Governor
Tom Whittingham	Foundation Governor
Rebecca Dennis	Foundation Governor
Vacancy	Foundation Governor
Vacancy	Foundation Governor
Daisy Broomfield	Local Authority Governor
Barry Worth	Associate Member
James Passmore (chair)	Parent Governor
Mel Knight	Parent Governor
Vacancy	Parent Governor
Simon James	Clerk to Governing Body

## Key Contacts

Co-chairs: Katie Brown & James Passmore:  
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jpassmore@suttonbenger.wilts.sch.uk  
Clerk to the Governing Body: Simon James  
clerk@suttonbenger.wilts.sch.uk

## Sutton Benger Governors - website

For more information about what the governors at Sutton Benger Primary School do, to find meeting agendas and minutes, and to explore who the Governors are please visit the school website:

[www.suttonbenger.org](http://www.suttonbenger.org)

