

Fishponds Church of England Academy Local Board of Governors' Newsletter

Newsletter 1, Spring 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome from the Chair of Governors, Trish Dodds

This is our first Local Board Newsletter. The purpose is to keep you informed and updated about our role and the work we do. Being known to you is an area we want to keep developing.

I have been on the Board since the school became an Academy and earlier! My background is in Primary Education so I felt I could take on the role of Chair about four years ago.

The members of the Board are very talented people who give generously of their time to the school. I took on the role of Chair knowing that I would be leading a team with the skills needed for us to fulfill our terms of reference.

The Governors role is to support and challenge the school leaders to achieve the goals in the School Development Plan. The Governors meet regularly and have a programme of visits to the school. These visits allow us to see the school in action and meet staff and children so that we can comment upon the reports we receive with confidence. In school newsletters I have updated you on progress following the Ofsted Inspection last year, these updates will continue termly.

If you wish to contact us at any time this should be done via the school office. We also make sure we attend school events regularly. Many of you will also know our Vicar, Rev Lizzie, who is also a member of the Board. Additionally, your representatives (parents and carers) elected to the Board to give a parental perspective are:



Samina Baig

I joined the local Board in November 2017 as a parent governor. With a background in developing people, I am passionate about all our children having the best start in their education. I have a daughter in Reception and a son who will be starting Nursery this September. I look forward to meeting you throughout the year.



Helen Clew

I'm Helen Clew, I have been a Parent Governor since September 2016. This academic year my focus is on maths monitoring. Both of my children have attended the school from Reception and are now in Year 2 and Year 4. I'm usually in the playground most days - please come and say hello!

A full list of Local Board Governors can be found at: <http://www.fishpondschurchacademy.bristol.sch.uk/about-our-academy/governance>

What is a Local Board Governor?

Local Board Governors are volunteers who are responsible for supporting the school to achieve its aims for the children. Most schools work with a group of school governors - together they're called the '**Local Board**'. There are statutory duties that the Local Board must complete.

Governors help to make decisions about the school's long-term goals. They support the Principal but also ask questions and make sure that the leadership team of the Academy are taking the school in the right direction.

Here at Fishponds Church of England Academy we are also part of a MAT (Multi Academy Trust) call DBAT (Diocese of Bristol Academy Trust). Each year a portion of our budget is paid to DBAT to provide our school with educational advice, training and support. You can find out more about DBAT by following this link: <https://www.dbat.org.uk/>

Governors' Surgeries on Parents' Evenings

Would you like to see Governors' Surgeries at Parents Evenings? This is just one way we plan to try improving communications and access for parents. We have Governors available on Tuesday 12th March where you can have an informal chat or comment about anything from the state of the boys' toilets (!) to how much your children enjoy after school clubs. Comments are all anonymous and will be fed back to the Board. Come and see us on Tuesday 12th March while we trial this idea. Please remember that if you have any concerns these should first be raised with your child's teacher. The complaints process is available on the school website: <http://www.fishpondschurchacademy.bristol.sch.uk/important-info/policies>

School Matters!



Attendance

We are passionate about providing an education for every child to reach their potential. To do this we need your help. As part of the Fishponds Church of England Academy we ask our families, parents and careers to:

- be responsible for making sure your child attends on time and every day;
- ensure your child is properly dressed in school uniform, equipped and ready to learn;
- inform school when your child is not in school in the morning of the first day of absence;
- make a written request through the school office in order to ask permission for any leave of absence;
- complete a form to confirm a request for authorised absence for religious observance or compassionate time off e.g. funerals etc and planned medical appointments;
- expect the school to support and encourage you in continually seeking ways to improve attendance at school.

The full attendance policy can be found on our website or please ask at reception for a copy. We are very proud of our school family for the recent improvement in attendance, please help us to keep it up.

<http://www.fishpondschurchacademy.bristol.sch.uk/important-info/attendance>

Volunteering

We want our parents to volunteer, it's a way for us to engage with you and to show you how much we value our parents. If you are interested in volunteering with the school please call at the main office for an information pack. It is very rewarding reading with the children or you can contact the Friends of Fishponds Academy who organize many wonderful fundraising events for the school and children

friendsoffishpondsacademy@gmail.com



SIAMS

For many of you this is yet another set of letters that has little or no meaning. SIAMS means Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools. At Fishponds Church of England Academy we are very proud to be a school supported by the Church of England. Our supporting

churches are St Mary's Church and All Saints Church, Fishponds. Last term those in Year 2 led their Harvest celebration at All Saints and invited year 1 to come along. Also, Year's 3 and 4 led the Carol concert last term at St Mary's. Both opportunities were a real joy.

During the Autumn Term Mrs Coker, Mrs Watt (Y2), Rev Lizzie Kesteven (Governor) and Katie Leaver (Governor) attended SIAMS training. Through our work and learning the Christian distinctiveness of our schools vision "**Loving to Learn, Learning to Love**" has been underpinned with a passage from the Bible. We hope you all enjoy reading the passage below and will come to recognize this in some aspects of the children's learning.

1 Corinthians 13 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Gift of Love

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends.

¹³ And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Revd Lizzie says "It was great to be invited to look at this passage from the Bible with school staff as part of our inset day in January, where we reflected on our values. Love as a value is at the very centre of what Fishponds Academy is and will continue to be about. It was great to explore exactly what that 'Love' might look like. **How do we learn to live well together?** - was one of the questions asked at the inset training and helped staff to work creatively with Mrs Watts and Miss Adams about how we might see 'Love' in our school. I look forward to working together with staff and parents so that every child that comes through Fishponds Academy might be able to answer that question for themselves."

For more information on SIAMS please see the link below:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-school-inspections>