

# Governors' Newsletter



## St. John the Baptist

Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Email: [admin@st-john.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-john.essex.sch.uk)

### **Update from Governing Board Meeting held 13.09.16 from Ann Roberts, Chair of Governors**

#### **The Governing Body is now known as the Governing Board. New name, but we remain the same!**

For this academic year the roles and responsibilities are unchanged: I remain as chair with Dave Holmes as vice chair, James Tucker is chair of the Finance Committee and Rupert Thomas is chair of the Curriculum Committee.

The school website is being updated to include photos of Governors, follow this link to see us:

<http://school.pebmarsh.com/about/governors/register-interests/>.

#### **What does the Governing Board do?**

The Governing Board monitors actions on the school improvement plan to bring our school into line with the raised standards of the new national curriculum. We are proud of the improvements made last year to enhance the quality of teaching and learning. This continues with a greater emphasis given to the teaching of spelling, grammar and punctuation. To further raise attainment the school is ensuring there is sufficient challenge for all children to reach the highest standards. Please read the attached list of achievements from last year on the statement of governance below.

#### **SATs**

Last year we saw rapid improvement leading to higher attainment at assessment. The new national curriculum has meant that children must achieve targets that were previously for older children and the media reported that SATs for 2016 were the hardest ever with only half of schools reaching national targets. Our children were well prepared, took their tests confidently and we are delighted that our school's SATs results for 2016 were the highest attainment and progress results for several years.

#### **Staffing & Class Size**

We are able to continue 'team teaching' in key stage 1 with staff working and planning together. Using the additional classroom provides a better pupil: teacher ratio to continue to raise the level of challenge for all the children in key stage 1.

The Year 6 who left in the summer was an unusually large year group which kept the school full for the last few years. Now that they have transferred to secondary school we have places available in every year group. If you know a family moving into the area, please feel free to recommend our lovely school.

#### **Parent Governor**

Parents should have received a letter inviting nominations for a parent governor. There is information about the work of governors on the statement of governance below.

We look forward to a successful year. Best wishes, Ann Roberts

#### **Governing Board**

Mrs Ann Roberts-Foundation Governor - Chair

Mr Dave Holmes- Parent Governor-Vice Chair

Mr John Watts- Authority Governor

Mrs Janet Penfold-Foundation Governor

Mrs Alicia Watkins -Staff Governor

Mr James Tucker-Foundation Governor - Chair of Finance, Personnel & Premises

Clerk to Governing Body - Mrs. Glynis Haigh

Mrs Karen De Pietro – Headteacher- Ex Officio

Revd Gay Ellis-Foundation- Ex Officio

Mrs Vanessa Clandfield-Foundation Governor

Mrs Linda Holder - Foundation Governor

Mr Rupert Thomas-Foundation Governor -Chair of Curriculum

Vacancy - Parent Governor

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of  
St John the Baptist C of E (V.A.) Primary School, Pebmarsh  
Summer 2016**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all Governing Bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of St John the Baptist Governing Body are:

- 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- 2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

**Governance arrangements: -**

The Governing Body of St John the Baptist, Primary School, is made up of twelve Governors - two Staff Governors (including the Headteacher), two elected Parent Governors, one Local Authority Governor and seven Foundation Governors. There is currently one Parent Governor vacancy.

We welcomed two Governors, one with experience in education, one in school finance, when three Governors stepped down after many years' valuable service. We welcomed our new Head Teacher in September 2015.

The full Governing Body meets four times per year and we also have a number of Committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. We have a Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee, a Curriculum and Pupil Related Committee, and a Pay and Performance Management Committee. We also have Committees that meet when required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

**Attendance Record of Governors**

Governors have good attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not 'quorate' (the number of Governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). All Governors attend four full Governing Body meetings per year plus at least one of the Committee meetings every term.

**Governance Statement**

**Academic Year September 2015 – August 2016**

The introduction of the New National Curriculum created a need to raise the attainment of all of our children and Governors have attended additional meetings to focus on making improvements in school. Governors are proud of the rapid improvements made this academic year while being sensitive to the ethos that makes St John the Baptist School such a wonderful environment for our children to experience and enjoy.

We have been delighted that our new Head Teacher has introduced an array of robust actions for the school in a manner so calm and thoughtful that school life for children has continued as usual.

The Governing Body would like to note our appreciation to all staff for the positive "can do" approach shown towards the adoption of the many changes now in place. We recognise that progress will not be instant, but we look forward to seeing the benefits begin to surface over the coming months and terms.

### **Improvements within school**

- The School Improvement Plan has been reviewed and updated regularly with progress and impact identified every term.
- The school has introduced Target Tracker which has enabled better tracking of learners' progress and earlier identification of children who need support.
- The school has improved provision for pupils with a more experienced Special Educational Needs Coordinator allowing more focussed support and at an earlier stage.
- An additional teacher has been employed to teach Maths and English to the Year 2 children in their own room for four mornings. This improves provision across Key Stage 1 by reducing pressure on the mixed age class. We have received very positive feedback from both the children and parents about this.
- The outside area for Early Years & Foundation Stage has been greatly improved to enhance learning opportunities. Activities from the classroom are now reflected in the outdoor area.
- Teachers and Learning Support Staff have had opportunities to attend training courses and other schools to improve and update teaching skills and share ideas back at school.
- Many curriculum policies, including Maths and English, have been rewritten or updated to reflect the higher standards of the new National Curriculum. This will raise expectations.
- The timetable has been reviewed to give more teaching time to Maths and English so that every class has a full lesson of English and Maths every morning which is raising children's attainment. Other lessons have more cross curricular content to practise English and Maths skills.
- New Maths resources have been purchased, with donations from the PTA, which are improving pupils' understanding.
- Sports provision has been improved with regular opportunities for all pupils to be taught by professional sports leaders.
- The Year 6 and Year 5 had a very successful residential week at Kingswood activity centre for team building and to raise aspiration and self-esteem. The updates and photos on a private Facebook group for their parents were very well received.
- The school's ICT equipment has been completely updated. Communication with parents is improved with regular emails. The phone system is more efficient and pupils have regular access to laptops.
- The school has introduced a tagline: 'Excite, Embrace, Encourage, Excel' based on phrases from the school's vision statement. This makes our school vision more accessible.

### **Improvements within the Governing Body:**

- The Governing body has kept up with all the changes required around school, including greater monitoring of school improvement plans and attainment data. A great deal of work has been done to help drive positive outcomes for learners and to make our new Headteacher feel at home. The Governors had very positive feedback from a County Review, May 2016, which reported: 'Governors are well informed and provide good support and challenge'.
- There has been very positive feedback from surveys held with parents, pupils and staff. Nevertheless, there is always more work to be done and Governors have also held a self-assessment survey to highlight areas where Governance can improve next year.
- We have updated our school website: [school.pebmarsh.com](http://school.pebmarsh.com) There has been very positive feedback from parents and visitors.
- We have welcomed two new Governors: John Watts, an Authority Governor who is a retired Primary School Head Teacher and Linda Holder, a Foundation Governor, who has close links with St John the Baptist Church.
- We have set the school budget with particular emphasis on improving the number of experienced teachers in school.

### How you can contact the Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions. The Chairman of the Governing Body, Mrs Ann Roberts, can be contacted via the School Office.

#### St John the Baptist C of E (V.A.) Primary School Governing Body, Pebmarsh

<u>Governor</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Term of office expiry date</u>
Mr John Watts	Authority	18.08.2019
Mr James Tucker	Foundation DBE	31.12.2016
Mrs Vanessa Clandfield	Foundation DBE	31.12.2016
Mr Rupert Thomas	Foundation DBE	19.05.2019
Mrs Linda Holder	Foundation DBE	17.12.2019
Revd Gay Ellis	Foundation	Ex-Officio
Mrs Ann Roberts	Foundation PCC	31.07.2019
Mrs Janet Penfold	Foundation PCC	31.08.2016
Mr David Holmes	Parent	11.11.2017
VACANCY	Parent	
Mrs Alicia Watkins	Staff	29.06.2019
Mrs Karen De Pietro	The Head	Ex-Officio

#### Governor Attendance Record 2015-2016

Governor	Governing Body	Finance, Premises & Personnel	Curriculum
	Meetings held : 6	Meetings held : 5	Meetings held : 3
Mr John Watts	6	-	3
Mr James Tucker	5	5	-
Mrs Vanessa Clandfield	6	-	2
Mr Rupert Thomas	5	-	3
Mrs Linda Holder	2 – New Governor	2	-
Revd Gay Ellis	5	4	-
Mrs Ann Roberts	6	-	3
Mrs Janet Penfold	3	4	-
VACANCY	-	-	-
Mr David Holmes	5	4	-
Mrs Alicia Watkins	6	-	1
Mrs Karen De Pietro	6	5	3
Mr Lloyd Felton	2 - Resigned	1 - Resigned	