



Brewood CE (C) Middle School St Mary's First School, Wheaton Aston



GOVERNING BODY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Spring Term 2017

15th May 2017

May 2017

Dear Parents

I wanted to write to you at the beginning of term to give you information and an update about our Federated Governing Body which include a Pen Portrait about each governor and their roles and responsibilities at Brewood and St Mary's.

Firstly, though I would like to thank Mrs D Ellis, who has stepped down as Chair - a post she has held for 12 years. Mrs Ellis indicated over a year ago that it was her intention to step down as chair and now as a governor, a position she has held for 24 years. Doreen Ellis has been a thoroughly dedicated Chair and her sole aim over the years has been to ensure the very best outcomes for pupils and that a distinctive Christian ethos is upheld. Doreen has put in numerous hours at school for meetings, school events and has overseen many positive changes at both schools.

I also wanted an opportunity to thank you for the supportive comments you made at the Parents' Forum last term following our OFSTED Inspection. We also took on board the concerns and comments raised. I hope this newsletter and the accompanying letter will reassure you about our reaction to the OFSTED Inspection, about our work challenging and supporting the school and about the governor's involvement in the future of the school since we received the

Academy order.

I was appointed Chair in January and although we did not feel the OFSTED Inspection report for Brewood was a fair reflection of the school, we have been very proactive in addressing the procedural issues, the actions; the attached summary outlines what we have done. We also made a formal complaint to OFSTED about Conduct, Administration and Process. We have already been informed by OFSTED that the grading or judgements would not change because the report would have been through a 'rigorous quality assurance process.' The response overall was that our concerns have either been 'not upheld' or 'no decision could be reached'. The governing body will be following one aspect further with OFSTED. I will keep you informed regarding the response to this.

Since the Inspection of St Mary's, staff have been working hard on the actions raised; particularly to increase challenge for all able pupils in Maths and English. We have booked external support to work with the staff on re-writing our school SEF (Self-Evaluation Plan). Governors are supporting and challenging the school in these developments by discussing progress at Standard committee meetings and through monitoring visits to school. Our St Mary's PTA



has helped to provide additional reading materials to support staff and pupils in all these developments.

We have taken a number of actions since December.

Actions since the Inspection

In January, Brewood commissioned an Independent Audit of Safeguarding. This was conducted by Mrs J Austin and Mrs B Williams, who are NSPCC trained; Mrs Austin is the Acting School Improvement Adviser Lead for Lichfield Diocese.

Her findings are on the school website in our 'Safeguarding' section. They are as follows:

- 'Brewood Church of England is a secure site'
- 'Robust systems for safeguarding are in place'

We asked Mrs Austin to carry out a report on progress with safeguarding during the last week of term in April. Her report is on our website. It is highly positive and states:

- 'Leaders and governors have acted with urgency to address safeguarding concerns raised by OFSTED'. 'Governors provide sufficient challenge regarding the school's duty of care to and to monitor the care of pupils who are at risk and that accurate and effective attendance registers are maintained'.
- 'Pupils who were previously on part-time timetables have been integrated fully into school and are now attending every day'.

We also had an External Review of Governance conducted by Mr D Werry an Associate Consultant School Governance. He stated:

- 'Governors are thoroughly committed to the school and have a good range of skills to offer challenge and support to school leaders'.
- 'Governors have demonstrated the capacity to bring about the immediate changes required to ensure the future success of the school'.
- 'Governance is sound in all areas'.
- 'The Chair of Governors shows strong and effective leadership'.

Mr Werry also carried out a review of Pupil Premium funding. He states in his report:

- 'With regard to Pupil Premium funding, leaders have substantially followed up recommendations received in April 2016. As a result, pupil premium pupils are making better progress. This was recognised by OFSTED in December 2016 and has continued since'. 'Data suggests strongly that disadvantaged pupils are making good progress across school'.

Roles and responsibilities of the Federated Governing Body

As well as formal meetings which governors attend in school i.e. Full

Governors, Finance and Premises, Standards Personnel and Ethos Committee. Governors have carried out the following since September:-

Met students in school to ask their views on teaching and learning provision.

Met with the School Council at the end of each term to ask their views on a range of school issues.

Attended school functions i.e., Class Worship, Celebration Praise, Church Services, Class Assemblies and showcase events, been on school visits and helped in supervising during SATs tests etc.

Met with the Safeguarding team for regular updates.

Attended Senior Leadership meetings to discuss a range of leadership issues.

Carried out building and site walks to check on any health and safety and safeguarding concerns.

Discussed the proposed Primary Structure whilst in its development stage.

Taken part in the Safer Recruitment process including shortlisting and interviewing new staff.

Been involved with an Independent Advisor in the Performance Management of the Executive Headteacher and Deputy Head of St Mary's Wheaton Aston.

Attended Collaboration meetings for Chairs/Vice Chairs of Governors and discussed progress with the Collaboration i.e. Development Plan.

Attended Governor training and updates at Stafford and with other Governors i.e. E-Safety training, new governor training etc.

Met parents at the various Open events i.e. Open Mornings.

Answered questions at a Parents' Forum event at Brewood and

at all our First School partners.

Analysed parents' questionnaires, summarised key strengths and development areas and fed back at Full Governors' meetings.

Proof-read documents prior to publication to parents.

Met school advisors on self-review days.

Discussed strategic issues with the Headteacher.

Visited other schools in different settings to discuss school structure and governance.

Held discussions over options for joining a Multi-Academy Trust.

The Executive Headteacher and myself are in regular weekly contact by phone, e-mail and in-school discussions on a range of issues. Governors are very generous with their time and are always available to discuss items.

Governors at Brewood and St Mary's want the very best for all the pupils and during the coming months will be involved in discussions regarding us joining a Multi-Academy Trust. Once we have notification of which MAT we will be joining, we will be in contact with you. I have included some frequently asked questions about MATs. These are attached to this newsletter and will be available on our School websites.

I hope to meet you at future school events and to listen to your views of the school - whether these are positive or ways in which we could improve what we do.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Haywood
Chair of Governors

Governing Body Pen Portraits

Each of the Governors and their categories are listed below. All time is given freely and there are no expenses for these roles. Time is spent both attending formal Governor meetings and visiting school regularly to support teaching, learning and the wider activities of the school. If you have any questions regarding Governance at our schools please contact Chair of Governors, Mr Peter Haywood p-haywood@brewood.staffs.sch.uk

Mr D Swift - Executive Headteacher

I have been Headteacher and governor at Brewood CE Middle School for 10 years and of St Mary's CE First School, Wheaton Aston since 2011. I was previously a Headteacher of a large Junior School in Shropshire where I worked for 11 years. I am married and have an eleven year old daughter. I enjoy reading, walking, running and sport in general. I am a lifelong Wolves supporter! I am passionate about pupils having the very best at Brewood and St Mary's, academically, as well as an all-round education. I am proud that we have a very special Christian ethos at Brewood and St Mary's.



Mr P Haywood - Chair of Governors

I have been a parent governor at Brewood CE Middle School for over 7 years during our two daughters' enjoyable and very successful time at Brewood CE Middle School. I am privileged to have recently been elected to the Chair of Governors. I am honoured to lead such a dedicated, passionate and professional team of governors who together with the Executive Headteacher, senior leadership team, teachers and all staff at Brewood have created an exciting, thriving and creative environment where pupils are their focus.

I am married and currently a serving police inspector with West Midlands police with 29 years' experience in many departments, which has enabled me to bring all my qualifications and experience to the role of Chair.

My aim is to make a positive contribution to the school and every child. I hope to maintain and develop the education for the children today and future generations of pupils.



Mrs S Bradley-Richards - Foundation Governor

My name is Suzanne Bradley-Richards, I have been a governor for 22 years on different governing bodies. I am a Foundation Governor at the School and also work in the Admin team. I am married with two grown up daughters. My hobbies are walking, dancing, and travelling. I am passionate about my role as a school governor and promoting the School ethos.



Revd R Dale - Foundation Governor

I have been the Rector of The Watershed Benefice (comprising the parishes of Lapley with Wheaton Aston, Blymhill, and Weston under Lizard) since August 2012. Before training for ministry in the Church of England, I taught at the University of Wolverhampton. I got married in 2014 and now share the Rectory with my husband, two teenage stepdaughters, and one slightly neurotic stepcat. If I have any spare time, I enjoy music, travelling, baking and making balloon animals

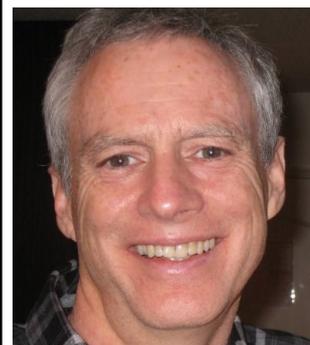
**Mr N Dangerfield - Foundation Governor**

I am a new Foundation governor who joined the board last year. I am a secondary school English teacher and have worked in a range of different types of schools around the country. Having now settled in Staffordshire, I am hoping to use my experience to support Brewood and Wheaton Aston in developing our young people's academic and spiritual lives.

Mrs L Davies - Co-opted Governor

I retired from the aerospace industry in 2014 after working at "Dowty/Smiths/GE/Moog" for 34 years in the capacity of Accounts Manager and in Commercial Programmes Dept. I have lived in Brewood for 32 years, I was widowed in 2011.

It was important to me to do something in my retirement that would be rewarding and helpful to the local community, a school governor at Brewood CE Middle school was a good opportunity. My hobbies are horse riding, golf, watercolour painting, walking holidays, my garden and my beautiful Cocker spaniel called Mistletoe.

**Mr M Diplock - Co-opted Governor**

I have been a Governor since 2011. Firstly as a Parent Governor, and since 2015 as a Co-Opted Governor. I am Chair of the Standards & Curriculum Committee. As a parent of a child who needed support in overcoming his specific learning difficulties, and is now at university, I recognise at first hand the support the school gives to pupils with SEND. Professionally, I have spent my career in the aerospace industry and technology, where I am now a consulting engineer.

Mr D Evans — Co-opted Governor

My full name is David Evans. I am recently retired at the age of 75 as a part-time trainer for the Licensed trade, travelling the country. Previous to that I spent over 30 years in Further Education as a Lecturer in Catering. I taught all aspects of the Hospitality Industry to Students of all levels of ability from SEN to Degree level. Before entering Further Education I worked in the Hospitality Industry not only in this country but also France, USA and Canada.

I am a local person serving on Brewood and Coven Parish Council and I'm a regular Church-goer and participate in Church activities. I attended Brewood CE Middle when it was a Grammar school and I am a member of Brewood Grammar School Old Boys Association Committee.

**Mrs J Hallett - Foundation Governor**

I am a foundation Governor and a member of St Mary's church in Wheaton Aston. I run two Christian clubs at St Mary's CE First school and am a member of the Ethos committee. My daughters are both former pupils of St Mary's and Brewood CE Middle.

Mrs D Rowlands - Parent Governor

I am a professionally qualified accountant (ACMA) with extensive experience of business partnering in the financial services sector. My role/responsibilities have included being integral member of executive leadership teams providing expert support in decision making & setting strategic plans, leading & managing significant change programmes, team building and staff leadership in addition to financial governance.

**Mr J Smith - Staff Governor**

I am a new member of the Governing Body at Brewood having been a staff governor at my previous school. I have been teaching for 20 years and have middle schools "in my blood" recognising how unique this type of education is to all of those pupils who have moved through the 3 tier system. I currently work very closely with a number of governors including Mr Diplock, Mrs Bradley Richards and Mr Haywood as part of my role on the different committees and I am keen to learn as much as I can from these experienced governors.

Mr R Taylor - Local Authority Governor

I have been a resident of Wheaton Aston since 1993. My children, William and Tobias have both attended St Mary's CE First School and Brewood CE Middle School. The education received has given them both a solid basis to further their natural skills and progression, one into the British Army and other having achieved a first class honours degree from Sheffield Hallam University is now their sports development officer.

I was initially appointed LEA Governor for St Mary's CE School in 2000.

I am a Member of the Royal British Architects and a graduate from Manchester University. I run my own Architectural Practice, ACP Architects, which is based in Wolverhampton.

**Mrs S Cornes - Clerk to the Governing Body**

As well as being PA to the Headteacher and Head of the Administrative Team.

I am also the official clerk to the Governors. I am an experienced clerk who works in partnership with the Chair of Governors to support the governing body, providing administrative support, guidance and advice. I was delighted to pass the National College for Teaching and Leadership's National Clerk's Development Programme in March this year. I am married with 2 sons, both former pupils at Brewood CE Middle, and 3 grandchildren. I am a volunteer for Riding for the Disabled. I enjoy walking, cooking, spending time with my family and going to the theatre.

