



St Polycarp's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. P.M. Best B.Ed M.A. NPQH

Governors' Update

16th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is amazing how quickly we have reached the end of this term. Thank you for everything you are doing to support our wonderful school. The Christmas fair, as always, was such a great success and I was so delighted to see all the wonderful events taking place within the school this term, my son particularly loved the KS2 disco this year. All the governors would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA committee and everyone who helps with the PTA events to make these events special throughout the year.

Governor Roles

We are very lucky to have Hayley Snishko join us as an associate governor this term. Many of you will know Hayley as the PTA Chair from the last academic year. Early next year Ian Rogers and Antony Johnson will leave the governing board as they have reached the end of their term of office. Antony and Ian have provided immensely valuable help in many areas, particularly overseeing the school finance and health and safety and we thank them very much for everything that they have done for the school.

We are very keen to have some new governors join the board. If you would be willing to oversee the school finance or health and safety areas, please contact me via the school office. You don't need to be an expert in these areas, just have an interest.

All the governors enjoy seeing things improve in the learning environment for the children, and seeing the journey that the children are taking in their learning. The best part of governing for me is always the Y6 presentations on "what I want to do in the future". I am always so delighted that the children feel inspired to do wonderful and amazing things in the future. It highlights just how much the staff inspire all the children to do well and to find a role in life that suits their personality. I wish I had had this kind of inspirational learning environment when I was at school.



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OFSTED

Saint Polycarp's is likely to be inspected by OFSTED within the next 18 months as part of their routine inspection programme. One of our sister schools has just been inspected and we are now the next in line within the Xavier Trust. As governors we can see that the school has grown and developed such a lot since the previous inspection in 2015. The vision that we share with the staff is 'We love, learn, grow and flourish together'. The school is embracing this in everything that is done for the children. The school has an ambitious curriculum that is refined to meet the needs of the children, we are delighted by the immense amount of work that the staff and leadership team put into monitoring progress and ensuring that the children are prepared for success.

You will be aware from the media coverage that the OFSTED single word judgements are controversial. Outstanding now is regarded by OFSTED as Exceptional and very few schools retain this title when they are reinspected, meaning that most schools that are delivering fantastic outcomes for their children are falling in the Good category. We believe that Saint Polycarp's is Outstanding within the current framework and we very much hope to retain this judgement.

Remembrance Day Assembly by Maggie Putland, Vice Chair of Governors and RE Governor

In November, I was delighted to be invited to the whole school collective worship honouring Remembrance Day. After observing two minutes silence, a number of KS2 children led the school in reflections and prayers. Each year group had made remembrance wreaths and these were laid and members of the choir sang an 'a capella' Last Post with beautiful harmonies. It was a very moving and meaningful collective remembrance with all children from Reception upwards behaving impeccably.



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As we reflect on how lucky we are to live in a beautiful part of the world where there is no wars and where people find joy and happiness in their community, we continue to pray for peace in the Ukraine, the Middle East and throughout the world. I wish you a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

God bless you and your family,

Martin Parr

Martin Parr
Chair of Governors



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