

# St Mary's C.E. Primary School

Rectory Gardens, London N8 7QN Tel: 020 8340 4898 E-mail: office@stmarysn8.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr Calvin Henry



7<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a new academic year gets under way, and as the newly elected Chair of Governors, I wanted to introduce myself and the Governing Body to all parents and carers. I also would like to take this opportunity to update you on the current membership and goals of the Governing Body this year, as well as give you a bit more information about the work which we have (quietly!) been doing in the background since the COVID-19 pandemic first started to impact the school earlier this year.

## **Who are we and what do we do?**

As some of you may be aware, the role of the Governors is to:

- help set the strategic direction of the school and, working alongside the Headteacher and senior leaders, put in place the aims and objectives (and monitor them) to ensure that the school continually develops and improves
- create robust accountability, supporting and challenging the school's leadership team to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our pupils
- ensure financial probity, setting the annual budget and managing the finances of the school to ensure our aims and objectives are met within our financial constraints.

We are fortunate to have really dedicated, talented and committed Governors at St Mary's and you can see details of who they are and what they do at the end of this letter.

The Governing Body meets four times a year, twice in the autumn term and once in the spring and summer terms. You can find the minutes of the full governing body meetings on the school website. Please note they are uploaded only after they have been approved at the next meeting. In addition, we have three committees – the Resources Committee, the Curriculum & Achievement Committee and the Children, Families & Community Committee. All governors sit on at least one of these committees, which also meet at least once a term. Lastly, each Governor also has at least one 'link' subject or key area which they look after. You can see which governor is link for which key area at the end of this letter.

## **How have we been supporting the school during the pandemic?**

In addition to our regular Governing Body and Committee meetings (now online via Zoom), the Governing Body has met every two weeks during term time from March onwards. This has kept us updated on the ever-changing government guidance, as well as receiving and approving the Headteacher's policies and processes for managing them. We have also reviewed and approved the detailed Risk Assessments that have been necessary to allow the school to open fully from this September, in addition to the opening of the school to keyworker and vulnerable children during the height of the pandemic. Our fortnightly catch-ups have enabled us to work closely with Mr Henry and the senior leadership team and also allowed us to both support and advise them in coping with the pandemic. This has meant the school has continued to secure the very best possible outcomes for your children throughout this difficult period.

As you will have seen, the guidance from the Government has constantly evolved, often at short notice. It is testament to the dedication of the staff that in the July parent survey, 90% of respondents said they felt well-informed by the school throughout the lockdown period. As governors, we are proud of all the hard work that all the staff put in to ensure that your children continued to get the very best possible provision in the face of an unprecedented crisis.

### **What are this year's priorities?**

At the recent Governing Body meeting, the governors, together with Mr Henry and his leadership team, agreed a number of areas of particular focus for the school for this year. These include:

- Implementing initiatives to support the mental health and well-being of children and staff
- Implementing a recovery and anti-racist curriculum offer which allows for all children to 'catch-up', thrive and achieve outcomes that are in line with age and/or stage-related expectations
- Developing a sustainable remote/blended learning offer
- Improving the quality of education for children with special educational and additional needs so that they develop independent learning skills; and
- Further developing St Mary's as a distinctively Christian school

### **Are we looking for new Governors?**

Absolutely! In fact, nominations are currently open for a new parent governor. If you think you have the right skills and would like to get involved, please review the information on the school website for more details. Nominations close at 5pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Do please contact our Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Plimley on [governors@stmarysn8.co.uk](mailto:governors@stmarysn8.co.uk) for more information about what the role entails.

Even if you do not have time to be a full governor, we are always looking for those who think they may be able to contribute and want to get involved in other ways. The Governing Body currently has two Associate Governors (one for human resources matters, and one specialising in the analysis of educational data). We will always try to find room for those who can bring additional skills such as finance, IT, education or anything else that would help complement our existing range of expertise. In fact, just a passion to support the school and some spare time is all you really need!

### **How can you get in touch?**

We are always happy to hear from you about how you think we can continue to improve and develop the school, together with governors gaining an understanding about any concerns you may have. Please feel free to contact me, via our Clerk, by emailing [governors@stmarysn8.co.uk](mailto:governors@stmarysn8.co.uk). More information on the governors, the minutes of meetings and statutory information can be found on the Governors section of the school website: <https://www.stmarysn8.co.uk/>.

### **And finally...**

On behalf of all the Governors, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support during these difficult times. Just by choosing St Mary's and bringing your children to school each day, the governors, Headteacher and all the staff can see that you have confidence in them to provide a safe and caring environment in which your children can thrive. I have been a parent at St Mary's for 11 years, and although my youngest child finished Year 6 at the end of last year, I have always been, and continue to be, proud that my children, and I as a parent and a governor, have been part of the St Mary's family.

As Chair of Governors, I am committed to ensuring that our school continues to provide a high standard of teaching and learning, in a nurturing and inclusive environment.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy and successful 2020-2021 academic year.

Stuart Goldberg



Chair of Governors

*Please see overleaf for pictures and link roles for the governors.*

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## Governors of St Mary's CE Primary School, N8



Stuart Goldberg



Charlotte Adlam



Ian Blaney



Calvin Henry



Fr. Bruce Batstone



Mthr Mitzi James



Jess Smart



Emma Jenkins



Venetia Brown



Aaron Khan



Angela Loulopoulou



Feyisa Demie



Alice Greenwell

Chair of Governors

Co-Vice Chair of Governors

Link Governors roles:

- Upper Phase (Year 5 & 6)
- Middle Phase (Year 3 & 4)
- Lower Phase (Year 1 & 2)
- Nursery / EYFS (Nursery & Reception)
- Safeguarding & E-Safety
- SEND & Disadvantaged groups
- BAME
- SIAMS
- Training
- Finance/Whistleblowing & Premises
- Human Resources

Stuart Goldberg

Charlotte Adlam and Ian Blaney

Feyisa Demie (Associate Governor)

Angela Loulopoulou

Stuart Goldberg

Aaron Khan

Stuart Goldberg

Charlotte Adlam

Venetia Brown

Fr Bruce Batstone

Aaron Khan

Ian Blaney

Alice Greenwell (Associate Governor)

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