

Cavendish Church of England Primary School

Challenge, Creativity, Compassion: Create a pure heart in me – Psalm 51:10



Governors' Newsletter

November 2023

Focus on Communication

Meeting and Greeting!

You may have noticed some new adults in Hi-Viz around the school gate on Monday mornings recently. These are members of our school Governing Body, and we have been enjoying meeting you and your children on the way in to school. We have all been impressed with how positive and orderly the start to the day is, and have also enjoyed seeing the children at their voluntary Early Morning Activities, such as Wake and Shake and Early Reading.

As part of our work as School Governors, we are here to support and monitor the work of the school, and part of this process is to hear the views of all members of our community – parents, staff, children and our partners in the locality, such as community groups and services. We welcome your feedback as parents, and alongside your Parentview surveys sent out from school, share this information with school leaders in order to develop development priorities for the coming year(s).

We will be out to meet you on Monday mornings for seven weeks in each term. Please take a moment to say hello and share your views on your school and any suggestions for the future. Of course, if you have any specific queries about your own child's education or welfare, these should be addressed with the classteacher or Headteacher in the usual way, as the governors are not involved in the day-to-day running of the school. This is the role of the Headteacher and school staff.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Julie O'Neill – Chair of Governors



Focus on our Governing Body Membership

Meet Revd Dr Karen Smith – our newest member...

Hello! I became the new Curate for the Stour Valley Benefice on the 1st July 2023 working alongside Revd Mark Woodrow.

I studied neuroanatomy at the Cambridge University Department of Anatomy & Centre for Brain Repair and my research focused on the potential of neural grafting to treat neurological conditions. I enjoyed a 30 year long career in academia, mainly at Cambridge as the Executive Director of the Computational Biology Institute and Head of the Corporate Liaison Office and at University College London where I was the Director of Bioprocess Leadership developing transformative research initiatives, through partnerships with private, public and third sector organisations.

Since arriving I have had the wonderful opportunity of visiting the School every Wednesday afternoon and joining in with various classroom activities, along with Collective Worship, leading Messy Church for the Reception class along with their teacher and have participated in various services for the School at the Church such as the recent Harvest Festival

Additionally I have been undertaking Science monitoring as part of my role as a Governor and have been hugely impressed at the quality of teaching in this area across all classes.



I am delighted to be involved with such a wonderful School which clearly delivers a dynamic and exciting learning environment for the children and whose leadership team constantly strives to bring education to life.

I look forward to meeting you at the School gate and at various School events in the coming months!

The Revd Dr Karen Smith – Foundation Governor

Focus on School Priorities

Metacognition – learning about learning!

The Governing Body is involved in the strategic development of the school, and part of our work involves working alongside staff to develop priorities for improvement. The school has currently identified the following **4 Key Priorities** for development for the current year

1. To raise standards: increase provision for all children, including children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, to ensure adjusting learning & resources meet the need of every child
2. To raise standards – develop metacognition to improve feedback to children and next steps marking so that children know how to improve their work
3. To raise standards: to ensure all leaders, including governors, maintain delivery of a precise curriculum through effective monitoring
4. To continue and extend community outreach actions informed by pupil voice and feedback



The Full Governing Body was recently invited to a joint meeting with staff to launch the 'Metacognition Project' which is part of the schools work with the Education Endowment Fund (a research based approach to school improvement). Mrs Santinelli-Clarke and Miss Wass jointly led the training where we were encouraged to think about 'how learners learn to learn!' This part of the project was launched with the children on their 'All About Me!' day last week, and you may already have heard them talking at home about 'The Power of Yet' and the 'Yet-I Monster!'

We are looking forward to seeing how this project develops and sharing with you how this has developed children as learners.

The Yet-i Monster!



Your Governing Body Needs You!

Enthusiastic, dedicated, committed to team work and with time to spare? Despite our continued efforts to recruit, we still have one vacancy on the Governing Body. If you know of someone who would be interested in finding out more, please encourage them to contact the School Office in the first instance, and we will be pleased to arrange an informal discussion with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors.