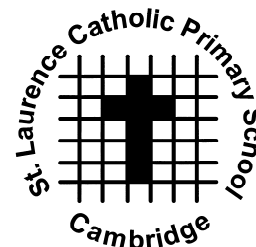


Through God's grace, a community growing in knowledge and understanding

St. Laurence Catholic Primary School

Governor News - December 2017



Welcome

For those of you who are new this term, welcome to St Laurence School from your school governors. We are a mixture of school staff, parents and parishioners. At the moment, five of our governors are parents and another six of us have children who used to attend St. Laurence. This is who we are and what we look like:

Foundation Governors (appointed by the Diocese of East Anglia)



Mary Jane O'Sullivan
Chair



Claire Southgate
Vice Chair



Fr Pat Cleary



Janet Scally



Harry Roberts



Charlotte Woodford



Terry Taylor-Crush



Joan Brierley

Staff Governors



Clare Clarke (Head)



Phyllis Maynard (TA)

Parent Governors



Becky Imhagwe



Monica McDonald

Co-opted Governor



Shauna De Wolf

Local Authority Governor



Sonali Kumarakulasinghe

Associate Members

Mrs Bennett & Mrs Harvey, our Deputy Heads are both Associate Members: they attend meetings but do not have voting rights on the Full Governing Body.

We work as a team; no individual governor has the authority to make decisions alone. The Full Governing Body meets twice a term and the minutes of our meetings are on the Governors' page of the school website. If you would like to know more about what we do, or to consider becoming a governor at some point, please talk to one of us or look at our page on the school website.

What's happening with the former caretaker's house?

We have been exploring options for developing the former caretaker's house so that it can be an asset to the school. The house belongs to the Diocese who had a condition survey performed earlier this year. As it stands, the house is not suitable for sale or rent on the open market and options are limited by the funds available for building work. Plans have been drawn up to develop the house so that the downstairs and outside space can be used by the school. Currently these plans are out to tender.

Is there any update on the possibility of a Breakfast Club?

Last term we conducted a parents' survey to see if there is sufficient demand for us to run a breakfast club. Details of this are in last term's governor newsletter (available on the Governors' page of the school website). We are hopeful that we shall be able to use the downstairs of the former caretaker's house & grounds for a breakfast club. Once we have confirmation of the building work going ahead, we can look in more detail at plans. At present, the earliest date we envisage being able to open a Breakfast Club is September 2018.

Are there plans for St Laurence School to become an Academy?

In 2015, Bishop Alan Hopes set out a vision for all the Catholic schools in our Diocese to join together in families of schools to form Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs). Since then, two MATs have been established in the Diocese:

- St. John the Baptist MAT (which is made up of seven Norfolk schools)
- Our Lady of Walsingham MAT. This currently consists of two primary schools (St Louis, Newmarket and St Felix, Haverhill).

Over the last two years, governors and head teachers across the Diocese have been considering what is best for all our schools. In October this year, the Diocesan Schools' Commission approved a plan for there to be two Catholic MATs across the Diocese of East Anglia. For us, this means joining Our Lady of Walsingham MAT. The plan is for this MAT to grow to 11 schools, covering schools in Cambridge, Ipswich & Bury. The Schools' Commission would like all Diocesan Schools to be part of a MAT by 1st September 2020.

Our governors discussed this plan at our meeting on 30th November and agreed that it is a positive move for the school. The everyday experience for you and your children will be the same, but being part of a Catholic MAT will allow us to maintain our Catholic ethos and work closely with other schools with a similar ethos, to develop and improve for the benefit of all our pupils. We do not yet have a specific date for when we shall join the MAT but we expect it to be by September 2019. There will be a formal consultation with parents and staff as part of this process and we shall keep you informed as our plans develop over the next few months.

National Campaign to remove the 50% faith cap on admissions

Currently, any new school that is opened is only allowed to allocate 50% of its places on faith grounds. Last September, the government pledged to remove this 50% cap but there is now talk of a U-turn on this commitment. The Diocese has been preparing a bid to open new Catholic schools across East Anglia in anticipation of this 50% cap being removed. If you would like to support the campaign to remove the 50% cap, you can fill in a simple online form that generates an e-mail to send to your MP at <http://cbcew.org.uk/education-cap>.