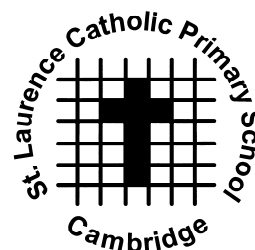


Through God's grace, a community growing in knowledge and understanding

St. Laurence Catholic Primary School

Governor News – March 2018



Ofsted Congratulations

We would like to extend our congratulations and thanks to all School staff for their hard work which contributed to the School retaining its “Good” rating in our Ofsted inspection in January. As governors, we reviewed the Ofsted report at a recent meeting and were pleased to note that the Inspector praised the Catholic ethos of the School and highlighted the positive impact of changes such as the introduction of the International Primary Curriculum. The clear message from the Inspector is that we have a securely good school that is well managed and continuing to improve. He enjoyed meeting parents and hearing their views. Thank you very much to all parents who completed the Ofsted questionnaire online. The governors would like to thank all our staff, children and parents for everything you do to make this such a good school.

Are you interested in becoming a school governor?

We currently have a vacancy on the governing body for a Foundation governor. This is a voluntary role. Foundation governors are practising Catholics, appointed by the Bishop. 8 of our 14 governors are Foundation governors. We are committed to our governing body being a group which reflects the diversity of our school and parish community.

What we ask of governors is:

- Time and interest in the school: typically governors spend between 5 and 10 hours per month on governor duties. Most governors visit the school during the day at least once a year.
- Attendance at 2 Full Governing Body meetings per term (on Thursdays 4-6pm)
- Joining a committee of governors which meets once or twice a term (either during the school day or immediately after school) to look in more detail at a particular area of the school's performance (eg children's learning & progress or premises management)
- Commitment to supporting the school to maintain its Catholic Ethos, academic standards and financial viability. We do this in a number of ways. Some people bring professional expertise (eg financial, legal, human resources). Some make planned visits during the school day to see the school in action and report back to the governing body. We all read reports from the headteacher, Ofsted, parent & pupil surveys and ask questions of the senior leadership team about what is going well, what the school's challenges are and what the school is doing to improve.

Being a governor requires commitment but is also immensely rewarding and interesting. So, please think whether you have the time and enthusiasm to join us. Training is provided by Cambridgeshire Governor Services. New governors are also buddied up with a more experienced governor and receive an in-house induction programme.

We also like to plan ahead and will be looking for other governors in the next year or two (who do not necessarily need to be Catholic).

If you think you might be interested, the first step is to talk to one of us. Please ask at the school office or e-mail our clerk at Clerk@stlaurence.cambs.sch.uk to arrange an informal conversation with one of our current governors.

General information about being a school governor is available on the national Governors for Schools website at www.governorsforschools.org.uk/

You can find out more about our governing body on the school governors page of the school website (in the community section). Here you can see minutes of our Full Governing Body meetings, information about our responsibilities and profiles of current governors.

Update on the former caretaker's house and breakfast club

You'll have seen that work has now started on developing the former caretaker's house. Once this work is complete, we shall be looking at options for setting up a Breakfast Club based in the house; the earliest date we envisage being able to open a Breakfast Club is September 2018.

Update on becoming an Academy

You'll remember that last term we outlined the plans for St. Laurence to join Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust (MAT). School leaders and governors are continuing to have meetings with other schools that are planning to be part of this MAT to explore how we shall work together. We have not yet set a date for joining the MAT.

Attendance

At our March Full Governing Body meeting we discussed the school's attendance policy again. The school's attendance policy contains the provision for the school to issue fixed penalty notices in cases where a child's attendance falls below 90% or where a child has an unauthorised absence of 3 consecutive whole days or more. Governors confirmed that the school may proceed with issuing fixed penalty notices in such cases. We see this as an action of last resort. The school will always write to parents and invite parents to meet with senior staff to discuss attendance concerns. The full attendance policy is on the School Policies page of the school website.