

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT THE GOVERNING BODY

Q: How many governors are there on St Mary's Governing Body?

A: There are 14 places on the Governing Body. Currently, we have 13 governors and one vacancy. There are different types of governors (e.g. some representing staff, others representing parents etc.) but essentially they all have the same overall responsibilities and a focus on the best interest of the School.

Q: In one phrase, what is the role of the Governing Body?

A: To act as a critical friend to the Head Teacher and his management team, which means providing ideas and support for improving the school, and making St Mary's a great place for our children to learn and develop.

Q: What does the Governing Body do?

A: We are responsible for the overall running of the School, including the monitoring of standards, budgeting, staff numbers, interviewing prospective members of staff, management of the buildings and grounds and the implementation of policies. We also need to ensure that what we do as a School – and how we do things - is conducted in accordance with the law.

Q: How do you go about this?

A: The Governing Body meets twice a term to agree on major decisions. There are also a number of committees that meet separately and deal with specific issues (e.g. premises, policy issues etc.) between the two Governing Body meetings.

Q: What does the Governing Body NOT do?

A: We do not get involved in the teaching of the children, in individual matters relating to children and their families or in matters relating to the Head Teacher and staff. We do obviously, though, take an interest in such matters overall - and indeed some governors visit the School and sit in lessons to get an idea as to what happens in our classrooms.

CONTACT US

If your question hasn't been answered, or you'd like to know more, or you have something you'd like to discuss with a governor, please contact us:

- **Phone the school (01473) 823268 and leave a message**
- **Send an email to governors@stmaryshad.co.uk**
- **Leave a note in the box just inside the main entrance**



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
STONEHOUSE ROAD, HADLEIGH
www.stmaryshad.co.uk

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF ST. MARY'S GOVERNORS

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, a warm welcome to the start of the new academic year to you and your children. The Governing Body has an important role in the life of our School, but we are aware that not many people know much about us! The aim of this short leaflet is, therefore, to tell you a little more about what we do, who we are and how you can get in touch with us. It may also encourage you to think about becoming a governor in the future.

Hopefully the leaflet will show you that the current governing body is a very diverse group of people from a wide range of backgrounds. We bring our skills, time and enthusiasm to work with staff, parents and pupils to make our school an even better place for our children to grow, learn and develop.

I really hope you find this leaflet useful. However, if you want more information about us, please drop into the school office just inside the main entrance and we'll do our best to tell you more.

Equally, I'd be pleased to chat to you personally. I'm around a lot, in the playground most days before and after school, so feel free to come and say hello!

Best wishes

Claire Woods
Chair of Governors (2011/12)



ST.MARY'S GOVERNING BODY – REVEALED!

We want to make sure that the work of the Governing Body is better understood by parents, and part of that involves making sure that you know a little more about the governors themselves. We asked the current governors to tell us a bit about themselves. As you can see, we come from a wide variety of backgrounds and have lots of different interests. Anyone can be a governor! How about you?

Andrew Frolish (Head Teacher): “I live close to Hadleigh with a young family. My eldest child is in Reception so I see school through the eyes of a parent! My interests include sport, scuba diving and writing poetry. I have been a governor at four schools.

Within education, I am interested in teaching creative writing, PE and about the environment and other cultures”.

Claire Woods (Chairman of Governors): “We moved to Layham from London in 2009, and my son is in Year 2 at St Mary’s. I’m an active member of St Mary’s Church and work part-time as the Benefice Administrator; I’m keen to maintain and further develop the good links between the Church and the School. I spend my spare time cooking, entertaining friends and family, walking the dog and trying to manage our garden”.

Alistair Fraser: "I live in Hadleigh but work in London and Cardiff. I own and run my own business. I have two children at St Mary's in years 5 and 6. I have been a governor at the school for a number of years and believe it is important the school maintains a strong Christian ethos, strives for excellence and seeks to place itself at the centre of our community. My contact email is Fraser_Alastair@hotmail.co.uk”

Mark Girling (Deputy Head Teacher): “I was born and raised in Ipswich where I currently live, with my wife. We are expecting our first child, to be born in December 2011. My interests include following the fortunes of Ipswich Town FC, all types of sport, reading and spending time with my family and friends. Within education, I am particularly interested in teaching PE, sharing and writing stories and giving our children opportunities to learn about the huge variety our world has to offer”.

John Hall (Vice-Chairman of Governors): “I have been associated with St Mary’s School as a governor and – to begin with – grandparent of a pupil since 2000. I have been involved in establishing the school's information technology systems, and in assisting with IT teaching in the classroom. My curriculum responsibilities as a governor are ICT and, more recently, mathematics”. Contact details: email:john.hall@stmaryshad.co.uk

Glenys Morris: “I have been associated with St Mary's School since 1992, as a parent helper, support group member, teaching assistant and governor. I am particularly interested in encouraging a love of books and reading in our children, and in

improving their communication skills and self-confidence. My own interests include reading, hill-walking and cooking, especially baking!”

Gloria Powell: “I have worked in the school as a teaching assistant for 16 years and have seen how caring staff are and how our school community enriches the lives of the children who have spent their primary education with us. The care, well-being and education of the children is my main concern. I also work hard to support our committed staff in all they do to assist in the moral and educational well being of the pupils”.

Pamela Sanderson: “I live and work in Hadleigh. My children are in years 4 and 6. I became a governor because I wanted to, as it says in the Bible, 'speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves' (Proverbs: Chapter 31, verse 8). I am an active member of Hadleigh Baptist Church. My other interests include music and reading, and I am a Money Management coach for the charity Christians Against Poverty”. Contact details: email pam.sanderson@fsmail.net

Paul Simon: “With three young children – two of whom are currently at St. Mary’s – I know how important the School’s current culture is in creating a safe and open learning environment. My particular interests are to further enhance the School’s positive approach to multiculturalism, diversity and the acceptance of differences regardless of faith, race, gender or disability. I work in public relations and journalism”. Contact details: email: happyjoestalin@yahoo.co.uk

Martin Thrower: “I’ve been a priest for 14 years and for the last two as Dean and Rector of Hadleigh, Layham & Shelley. I have been a foundation governor in various Suffolk church schools for 10 years. During my secular career I worked in horticulture for Thompson & Morgan and latterly as a director of Unwin's Seeds. It may not be surprising that my main hobby is gardening as well as playing badminton and watching motor sport. My wife is Pauline and we have three teenage/grown up children, Ashley, Emily & Dominic”.

Bernadette White: “I have three children, two of whom now attend Hadleigh High School after coming through St. Mary’s, and the youngest who is presently in Year 6 at the School. We live in Hadleigh and take part in much of the local life and activities, such as scouting, swimming, athletics and music. I previously helped on the Support Group for eight years, and have been a governor at St Mary’s for seven years”. Contact details: email: Bernadette@my-narrowboat.co.uk

David Warner: “I have been a Governor at St. Mary’s School for 14 years. I am Suffolk County Council’s representative on the Governing Body. I am an active member of the Finance, and Premises/ Health and Safety Committees. My

curriculum responsibilities are for music and drama. If I can be of assistance with any Governor related school questions, or problems please email me at: nottinghamvictoria@supanet.com”

Mark Warner (Parent Governor): I have worked in the NHS for the past 20 years, and work currently as an NHS Manager at Colchester General Hospital. I moved to Hadleigh around 15 years ago, and am keen to support my local community. I have one daughter who has just started Key Stage 2 at St Mary’s. I would like to represent the other parents to the Governing Body and am happy to convey any views or concerns they may have. mark.warner@stmaryshad.co.uk