



Governor's Newsletter. Summer Term 2023

Party on the Field

Thank you, to all our families and friends who supported our 'Party on the Field' last Friday. In spite of the dreadful weather, we had a lovely time, enjoying great company, wonderful food, lots of exciting activities and some amazing live music. A huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it all happen!

Farewell to Mrs Wallis

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Mrs Wallis as she retires as Headteacher, at the end of this term. I have known Mrs Wallis since 2015, when I became Chair of Governors, but I'm sure many of our parents have known Mrs Wallis for a great deal longer. Mrs Wallis taught in Haslewood School from 1996, was part of the establishment of St. Catherine's School in 2003 where she has served as Assistant Headteacher and Headteacher for the past 15 years. Her service and commitment to the families and staff of St. Catherine's and the wider community has been outstanding. Her legacy will be leaving St. Catherine's as a strong, nurturing, community-centred, Church of England Primary School that will impact generations of children and young people to come. As governors, we wish Mrs Wallis every happiness and fulfillment of purpose in her retirement.

Governing body

Our governing body membership is currently:

Peter Falconbridge	Co-opted governor
(Chair)	
Cathy Irons	Co-opted governor
(Vice Chair)	
John Forrest	Co-opted governor
Vacancy	Co-opted governor
Vacancy	Co-opted governor
Rachel Pennant	Foundation governor
Mike Marsh	Foundation governor
James Nicolson	Foundation governor
Simon James	Parent governor
Jelisa Smith	Parent governor
Dale Webster	Parent governor

Mrs A. Wallis
Mrs Sarah T-Storey
Mrs Tracey Fisher
Mrs Jo Devonshire
Vacancy

Headteacher governor
Staff governor
Associate member
Associate member
Local Authority
governor

As you can see, we still have vacancies for 2 co-opted governors and 1 local authority governor. If you are interested in applying for any of these posts you can download the application form and a description of the role from the [governor page](#) on the school website. If you would like to discuss a role first before applying then speak to Mrs Wallis, or you can email the Chair of Governors at admin@stcaths.herts.sch.uk.

SIAMS Inspection

We are expecting our next SIAMS Inspection any time from September 2023. A SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) is conducted by the Anglican and Methodist Boards of Education, *to ensure a school, through its vision and practice, is living up to its foundation as a Church School and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.*

Our last inspection was in 2016, when we were judged as GOOD and the inspector noted – "*This is a nurturing family community, underpinned by Christian values. This ensures everyone feels welcomed and accepted*".

There is now a new Inspection Framework, which will award us one of two judgements

- **J1** Through its vision and practice, the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.
- **J2** The school's vision and practice are not enabling it to fully live up to its foundation as a Church school.

Governors are working with the school to ensure that the appropriate evidence, to ensure we receive a J1 judgement, is robust and up to date.

Catch-up. As the chair of governors, I meet with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher each month for an informal 'catch-up' meeting. This term we met on **07.06.23**. At this meeting,

we discussed information regarding pupils and staff; e.g., child protection concerns, staff vacancies and recruitment. We also discussed the arrangements for the recruitment of a new Headteacher, in preparation for Mrs Wallis' retirement in July.

LINK VISITS

All non-staff governors have a 'Link Governor' responsibility. In this role they monitor specific aspects of the school to ensure good progress and management. The current link governor responsibilities are: -

Peter Falconbridge	SEND & Performance Management
Cathy Irons	Safeguarding & SFVS
Rachel Pennant	SIAMS /RE / Worship
Mike Marsh	English
Dale Webster	Mathematics
Simon James	Early Years
Jelisa Smith	Cultural Diversity
John Forrest	Pupil Wellbeing
Jim Nicolson	Health & Safety.

Since April 2023 the following link visits have taken place;

Safeguarding Link Visit. Mrs Cathy Irons carried out her summer term Safeguarding Link Visit on **03.05.23** when she visited Mrs A. Wallis and Mrs T. Fisher (School Business Manager). She confirmed that appropriate safeguarding checks had been carried out for the recent appointment of a new school governor. She also helped the Headteacher in the completion of the Spring 2023 Safeguarding Report. Mrs Irons also visited on the **12.07.23** to start populating the Summer 2023 termly safeguarding report, which will be reported at the autumn FGB Meeting.

SEND Link Visit. Mr Peter Falconbridge carried out his summer term SEND Link visit on **16.05.23** When he visited Ms J. Fitzgerald (Inclusion Officer). They discussed the Hertfordshire Funding Mechanism for SEND pupils. Mrs Fitzgerald also provided updates on the work of the Inclusion Team.

Performance Management Link Visit. Mr Peter Falconbridge carried out his summer term Performance Management Link visit on **20.06.23** When he chaired a meeting of the Performance Review Committee (PRC). The committee reviewed evidence for the Headteacher's final appraisal, agreed arrangements for the Headteacher's Appraisal for 2023-2024 and examined evidence for teacher performance for the summer term.

Wellbeing Link Visit. Mr John Forrest carried out his summer term Wellbeing Link Visit on

27.06.23 when he met with J. Fitzgerald (Inclusion Officer) and N. Hussein (Nurture Lead). They discussed outcomes from the recent 'Feel Good Week' focussing on healthy eating in supporting children's wellbeing. They also discussed proposals to support staff wellbeing and the recently drafted 'Diversity Statement'.

SIAMS Link Visit. The Rev. Rachel Pennant carried out her summer term SIAMS Link visit on **17.07.23** When she visited Ms T. Lines (TL - RE Lead). They discussed the recent presentation, to governors, about the new RE Curriculum and the staff training TL has provided to support the implementation of the RE Curriculum.

MEETINGS

Resources Committee (RES) Meeting. The RES Committee met on the **02.05.23** to monitor; finance, premises, health & safety; and data protection. The meeting received reports on the allocation of Pupil Premium and Sport premium funding. The meeting also received the Summer GDPR Report and an update on the School Travel Plan.

Full Governing Board (FGB) Meeting. The Full Governing Board met twice during the summer term. The first meeting (**16.5.23**) approved the School Budget for 2023-2024. The second meeting (**22.06.23**) received an update on the new RE Curriculum by Tracey Lines (RE Lead). TL also update governors on the implementation of the New SIAMS Framework (Sept.2023). The Headteacher's Summer 2023 Report was discussed. Governors reviewed the 2020-2024 Equality Statement and the Spring 2023 Safeguarding Report. The Play policy was reviewed and approved.

School Improvement Committee (SIC) Meeting. The SIC met on the **06.06.23** to monitor

- 2022-2023 Self-Evaluation Form
- 2022-2023 SIAMS SEF Summary
- 2022-2023 School Development Plan (Summer 2023 update)
- 2022-2023 Governor Development Plan (R.A.G. – 06.06.23)
- 2022-2023 Pupil Premium Grant. Monitoring impact of strategies
- 2022-2023 Sport Premium Grant. Monitoring impact of strategies
- Staffing and personnel (wellbeing)

The committee also received and approved the summer 2023 PRC Report and confirmed updates to the governor page on the school website.

Performance Review Committee (PRC).

The PRC met with Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher on the **20.06.23** to review evidence for the Headteacher's final appraisal, agreed arrangements for the Headteacher's Appraisal for 2023-2024 and examined evidence for teacher performance for the summer term.

Chair's Network Meeting. Mr P Falconbridge chaired a Teams Meeting of the East Herts Chairs Network. These meetings take place termly and provide an opportunity for Chairs from different governing boards in East Herts to share, informally, their thoughts on issues affecting their governing boards. The last Network Meeting was on **03.07.23**, where we discussed the DfE updated guidance on diversity data, exclusions, Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE 2023). We also discussed challenges posed by budget management, recruitment and Ofsted.

On behalf of the governing board can I wish all our families a very joyful and restful Summer Holiday.

Chair of Governors at St. Catherine's School

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