



St Joseph's Governors' Newsletter

Spring 2022

In this issue

- Welcome new parent governor and new clerk
- Current board
- Foundation Governors needed
- Governor's Fund (Trim Trail)
- Thank you to staff

Introduction

We hope that you and your families are well and looking forward to the Easter Break.

Now that we are able to be in school again we hope to have a governor presence at plenty of school events. Please come over and say hello, we would love to see you.

Thank you to all parents for your support of the school, it is very much appreciated.

St Joseph's Local Governing Committee

New Parent Governor joins the board

We are delighted to report that Mrs Anna Ferguson has joined us as a Parent Governor.

We asked for nominations in January and as she was the only candidate we did not need to run a ballot, according to our constitution.

Mrs Ferguson has a son in Year 2 and brings a wealth of experience and skills to the board. We are very pleased to welcome her.

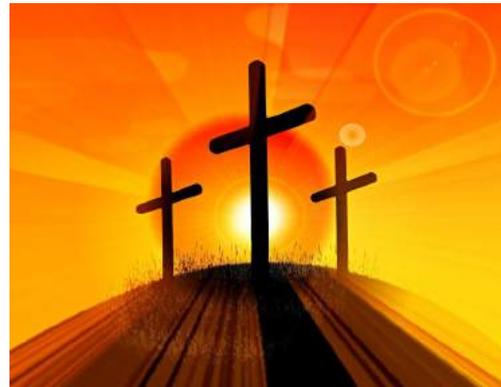


Photo by [Nick Fewings](#) on [Unsplash](#)

New Clerk

We were sad to say goodbye to our previous clerk in October 2021 after 17 years. However, we were very pleased to welcome Catherine Frewing as our new 'Governance Professional' in November 2021.

The Governance Professional (new name for 'clerk') is an essential part of any Local Governing Committee. It is a paid part-time role, whereas governors themselves are unpaid volunteers. Mrs Frewing ensures the smooth running of meetings, keeps a track of compliance, makes sure we meet our regulatory and good practice requirements and maintains our records. We literally could not do our jobs without her.

CURRENT BOARD



Foundation Governors

Dominic Dow (Chair of Governors)

Teresa Barnard

Parent Governors

Jo Winton

Anna Ferguson

Staff governors

Catherine Walker (Ex-officio)

Jake Philpott (Elected)

Other

Helen Bilton (Vice-chair, Co-opted)

We have a lot of vacancies for Foundation Governors right now. During the Covid period several people came to the end of their terms of office and we have found it difficult to replace them. Traditionally the Parish Priest would approach suitable people but Fr Raglan is still a bit too new to the parish to be able to do that. So we are inviting you to spend some time over Easter discerning whether this is something you feel called to do, or if you know someone who might be. We are very happy to answer any questions

governors@stjosephshh.org.uk



“Serve the Lord joyfully”

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS Could you be one? Or know some- one who could?

Foundation Governors are practising Catholics who want to support their local community through the ministry of school governance. They can be any age (18+), they don't necessarily have children and can come from any background. School governance requires such a wide range of expertise and perspectives that absolutely everyone has something they could bring (for example, we need soft skills such as problem-solving just as much as finance). There is lots of training available. Most governors find it very rewarding and a great source of new skills and experiences. Of course, it is also a fantastic way to live out your faith.

Foundation Governors are appointed by the Diocese and have a legal duty to preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school. However, they don't do this alone as all other governors sign up to preserve the Catholic ethos as well. In day-to-day practice all governors share the work regardless of what type of governor they are.

What you do need is some time to attend meetings (minimum x3 per term) and read documents/emails in between. Some employers give time off for school governance. The Diocese estimates that the average Foundation Governor position should take up about 10-12 hours a month.

More at <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/education/>



GOVERNORS FUND

Thank you parents!

Many parents generously donate to our Governors Fund—thank you so much, especially right now as we all are struggling with the cost of living. We use this money mainly for improving the facilities and buildings. Our most recent large expense has been to replace the trim trail in the playground. The quotes came in higher than expected so we had to seriously consider whether it was worth it. However, we were able to go back to last year's parent survey where you told us that play was important to you as parents. We spoke to children who said that they loved the trim trail, and suggested some new features they would like. We also spoke to staff who said that it was a valuable thing to have. Friends of School, St Joseph's amazing parent association, have also agreed to fund-raise so it is a collaborative effort. The work is booked for the Summer Holidays.



Artist's impression of our new Trim Trail due Autumn 2022

THANK YOU STAFF

This has been the first uninterrupted Spring Term since 2019. However, Covid has still had an impact as some staff have been ill and those who were in school had to fill in the gaps so it has not been an easy term. Events in Ukraine and the rising cost of living are also unsettling and worrying for everyone. But, as always, we are very grateful to St Joseph's excellent staff team for pulling together and making sure the children's experiences are the best they can be.

Despite the challenges they have risen admirably to St John Bosco's command to 'Serve the Lord joyfully' and there has been joy in abundance. As governors we have really enjoyed being in school again. From the simple, but profound joy of hearing the children sing again, to trips and visits, dressing-up days and shared hilarity in the classrooms we are in awe of our community's resilience and looking forward to the Summer Term.



**Wishing a Happy Easter to everyone
in our St Joseph's school community**

See you in the Summer Term!



Will you become our next Foundation Governor?

We are looking for new Foundation Governors to join our Governing Body.

Do you have?

- Common sense, and the ability to work in a team
- An interest in education and young people
- Patience, energy, enthusiasm, and some time to volunteer
- A willingness to listen, learn and to undertake training
- A Catholic Faith which you practice regularly?
- A wish to add value to the community of St. Joseph's

The skills, experience, and attributes that you have gained and developed in your life are an invaluable asset to the responsibilities undertaken as a Foundation Governor. The most important requirement, however, is a desire to ensure sincere, ongoing engagement between faith and learning at St. Joseph's.

As a Foundation Governor, you will have a wide range of responsibilities and play a central role in the planning, development, monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of school life.

Being a Foundation Governor is a wonderful way to:

- Live out your faith by donating your time and skills to the school community
- Become more knowledgeable about St Joseph's
- Ensure the religious character of the school is preserved and developed
- Develop on various school issues such as appointments of key staff, health and safety and child protection and safeguarding issues
- Have a knowledge and understanding of the vision for the school through the school's development plan and the financial plan
- Have a good working relationship with the headteacher, staff, parents, pupils and fellow governors.

The position of School Governor is a rewarding one and we genuinely encourage you to join us. It is necessary to be aware that being a school Governor will involve a regular attendance, attendance at meetings and some preparation in between and is a voluntary position.

For an informal discussion about becoming a governor please email Governors@stjosephshh.org.uk or to register your interest please contact the Clerk to the school governors Clerk@stjosephshh.org.uk

