



25 April 2016

Subject: Governor blog - Mrs Julie Harris-Tighe

Name:	Miss Ann Other
Class:	3B

As some of you may know, I have been involved with St John's since 2004 when my eldest son started in nursery. I became a parent governor in 2006 for a number of reasons. Apart from being young once myself (eons ago), I had no experience or prior knowledge of primary school education nor what a governing body was or did! However, I was keen to understand the function of the school, how it operated, how decisions were made and wanted to be a part of what I felt was a school with an excellent reputation, ethos and community spirit.

I am very pleased to say that St John's has certainly delivered in all areas. Being a governor is something that I see as a privilege. The 'behind the scenes' work that takes place in school, which as parents, we don't always see or hear about, is extensive and at times, complex. What I do appreciate is the sheer amount of decision making that has to take place on a daily basis to ensure that our children benefit from the excellent teaching and social development that takes place. The constant forward thinking and planning to ensure the school remains at the top of its game to benefit its pupils is quite humbling. I really had no idea before being a governor, just how much work goes in to being an outstanding school. However, it goes so much further than just academic work; I hope you will agree that the children not only learn well but they are growing into well rounded, thoughtful, considerate and enthusiastic young people. The 'outstanding' rating St. John's received from the last Ofsted was well earned and very well deserved.

In my role as parent governor, I am also the health and safety governor, safeguarding governor and have recently undertaken the chair for school improvement, behaviour and health & safety subcommittee meetings. This means that I am involved in such things as health and safety assessments (carried out by an external organisation) to ensure the school maintains high levels of safety and the children are not at risk, whilst safeguarding covers a wide range of elements from special needs provisions to reviewing policies and documents to agree best practice. I am very fortunate to have access to the relevant training provided by the school via the local authority to allow me to carry out these duties competently.

The school has an open door policy and that is also adopted by its governing body. We encourage parents and carers to approach us with questions, comments and suggestions that will help us to continue to improve. The fact that the school is oversubscribed year on year goes to show the excellent reputation of St. John's does not go unnoticed and I, together with the rest of the governors, will work hard to ensure this continues.

St. John's is blessed with an enthusiastic and dedicated governing body; meetings are well attended and input is always plentiful and highly motivated. St. John's instils in its governors the aim for the very best possible outcome for the pupils. I would encourage any parent to get involved with the school whether it be through the PTA, summer and Christmas fayre events or when a governor opening arises – it is extremely rewarding and no prior knowledge is required! If we, as parents, are able to invest time and energy in our school there is a very good chance our children will too!

Julie Harris-Tighe Governor