



Ettington Church of England
Primary School

20th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carer

I would like to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors of Ettington C of E Primary School. I want to start by thanking my predecessor, Yolanda Franklin for her hard work and dedication to the role. Having served on the board of governors for over 7 years, she unfortunately felt that she no longer had the time to dedicate to the role of governor alongside her full-time job and family commitments. We wish her and her family all the very best for the future.

My name is Heather Fletcher, I have been a Foundation Governor, representing Ettington Church, since 2016, and was appointed Vice Chair of Governors 2 years ago. Having been a parent at the school from 2013 to 2023, I am enjoying the opportunity to have a continued involvement with the school, working with the staff and governors, and getting to know your children. I have always had a keen interest in education but having school aged children reignited my love for it, being able to support the school which not only nurtured my children, but also started their love of learning is extremely rewarding. I am passionate about supporting the school in providing the very best nurturing, opportunities and education for all the children, allowing them to truly 'Live life in all its Fullness' John 10:10.

Since the appointment of Mrs Crowe and Mrs Brown in 2023, the staff and governors have worked tirelessly to continue the sustainable development and improvement across all areas. Making sure that the children are at the heart of all decisions we make, allowing all children to reach their full potential in a school environment where they feel valued. Something we are proud to say was witnessed by the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspector during our inspection last November, 'Determined leaders bring dedication and energy to make certain the vision is lived out in school. They unswervingly ensure everyone is valued, included and given the opportunity to excel.' Whenever I visit the school, I am not only struck by how calm it is, which speaks to the excellent behaviour of the children, but how genuinely excited and engaged they are in their learning, they never tire of showing you their work and telling you what they are learning, it is an honour to see.

Part of the on-going development involved the governors reflecting on their role and looking at ways to enhance the practice of governance, ensuring that the school has the right support and challenge to continue to make progress. As a result, we changed the way we work, removing the need for committees, and allowing all governors to have an oversight of all areas of the school. We feel this means that decisions are made with all the information necessary for the best positive impact of the whole school, which we can then continue to strategically review and monitor.

We have also welcomed two new Parent Governors this year after Rachel Tompkins and Bethan Cook stood down from their roles. We thank you for the time you spent on the Governing Board. I am very pleased to inform you that Tammy Easton; with children in year 1 and 4 and Kerry

Hughes; with a child in year 1, have both been appointed as parent governors after the nomination process. They bring their skills and experience to the board, whilst representing the voice of the parents and cares of the school, I look forward to working with you and helping you find your feet in your new roles.

As a result of Yolanda Franklin standing down from the board, we are still in the process of recruiting a Local Authority Governor, but hope to fill this role very soon, having carried out a skills audit of our board to enable us to be as effective as possible.

I look forward to meeting you at events throughout the year, whilst continuing to work closely with all stakeholders of the school, to bring enduring improvements to our much-loved Village school for the benefit of all the children.

Yours faithfully

Heather Fletcher

Chair of Governors