



Bomere & the XI Towns Federation

Governor Spotlight

July 2021



A message from Keith Lister Chair of Governors

Following all of the unexpected challenges of the last academic year, we had hoped that things would be back to normal in 2020/21, but this wasn't to be! However, our experience from the first lockdown was extremely valuable and thanks to a mammoth effort from our staff, we were delighted to be able to offer such interesting and varied on line lessons during the Spring Term 2021 lockdown, enabling the children to participate and interact with their friends and teachers virtually when they were unable to meet in person.

Throughout the lockdowns, our staff have provided safe and reliable care for key worker's children and stimulating and challenging on line lessons for pupils at home. Subsequently, a huge amount of preparation and planning went into the safe and successful wider opening of our schools to ensure that everyone stayed safe and to minimize any bubble closures. As a Board of Governors, we couldn't be more delighted and proud of the support that we have received from pupils, staff and parents alike during this unprecedented time so a huge thank you from us all – as ever, you have all been vital to our success!

Being a School Governor is a fascinating and very rewarding experience and we are blessed with a Governing Body with a wide range of skills and backgrounds. We have a vacancy at the moment, so if you would like to help make a difference, please let James (Vice Chair) or me know directly or via either school office. Thank you for your continued support to our Federation.

Keith Lister, Chair of Governors

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Members of the Governing Body

Keith Lister	Chair of Governors (Co-
James Reynolds	Vice Chair (Parent Governor)
Julie Ball	Executive Headteacher
Sallie Roberts	Deputy Headteacher (Co-
Katie Farmer	Staff Governor
Vacancy	Local Authority Governor
Lucinda Burns	Foundation Governor
Barbara Gallimore	Foundation Governor
Hannah Lins	Foundation Governor
Emma Quigley	Foundation Governor
Rachel Hudson	Parent Governor
Tony Simpson	Co-opted Governor
Richard Kinley	Co-opted Governor
Lidya Collela-	Co-opted Governor
Suzanne Jones	Co-opted Governor
Patsi Park	Co-opted Governor
Hannah Reynolds	Associate Governor
Vacancy	Co-opted Governor

Update

This year has been one of changes and our Governing Body has been no exception. We have had a number of terms of office ending, retirements and resignations and we extend a huge thank you to Mary-Lou Toop, Lisa Holland, Jenn Varney, Neville Ward, Andrea Hall, Chris Beddoes and Steph Henney for their valued service to our Federation.

However, we have been delighted to welcome Richard Kinley, Rev Hannah Lins, Lidya Collela-Davies, Dr Suzanne Jones and Patsi Park who bring broad foundation, educational, business, public sector and previous Governing experience. We have included short biographies for Suzanne, Hannah, Lidya and Richard on page 2.

What do Governors do?

Governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in our school. We hold the main responsibility for finance in school and work alongside the Executive Headteacher to make decisions about budgeting. Governors work with the schools to set the strategic direction, aims and objectives, and to monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achieving them. We appoint, support and challenge the senior leaders and have an important role in ensuring that all stakeholders in the schools have a voice.

New Governor Profiles



Dr Suzanne Jones — I am an Educational and Child Psychologist, I have previously been a primary school teacher and I have worked in education for more years than I care to declare! Having recently moved to the village I was keen to be part of the community and make a contribution. As such, when I was kindly sent a link to the Governors role and read about the amazingly dedicated and positive team around the schools, I was eager to join so that I can hopefully share my knowledge and experience. I am really looking forward to being part of the team.

Rev Hannah Lins — As the Interim Priest-in-Charge at Leaton for the next year, it's a great privilege to be a Governor. Long ago (!) I was a teacher of A-Level Psychology, so there is plenty that's familiar about the pressures and joys of working in education. But in my role now I'm just really looking forward to supporting the staff and pupils, as we continue to put the Christian faith at the heart of school life.



Lidya Colella-Davies- I live in Baschurch and my daughter attends St John the Baptist School. I have spent time volunteering at the school helping out in the classrooms. I was born in Switzerland and moved to the UK when I was 9 years old. I have close family links to Switzerland and Italy and am fluent in both languages. I work as a Local Government Officer within Shropshire Council. I am passionate about the education and life skills children develop within the schools, thus enabling them to achieve their full potential. I feel privileged to be part of the team and contribute to the school and be part of its ongoing success.

Richard Kinley — I retired recently after a career in IT and moved to Shrewsbury six months ago. My two daughters are grown up; one is a primary school teacher and the other has followed me into IT. I have previously been a Governor at both primary and secondary level, and was Chair at the former for eight years, as well as sitting on a range of committees. Now I'm retired, I feel I have the time to spend on governorship that I lacked when working, and hope to be able to contribute something positive to the success of both schools.



Training

Staff and Governors alike are provided with a wide variety of regular training sessions to support continuing professional development and school improvement activities. New Governors receive an Induction and New Governor Training including Safeguarding and Prevent as well as any topics relevant to their Link roles and/or committee membership eg Finance.

During and since the lockdowns, our meetings and training has all been carried out on line, which has necessitated achieving a level of proficiency in video conferencing with Microsoft Teams. We are due an Ofsted review at Bomere Heath during the next academic year (delayed from this year due to the pandemic) and all Governors have received Ofsted Inspection training to ensure that our review does us due credit.

Class Structure

Bomere Heath will remain at 5 classes and Ruyton will remain at 3 classes plus nursery in September based on current roll numbers.

Home School Agreement

We encourage parents to engage with school via our Home School Agreement which is available on our website.

School Improvements

This year we completed the new lobby and fencing at Ruyton and have a new library, nurture room and the opening up of Wrekin class planned over the summer at Bomere Heath.

A year in numbers (Approximately!)

Hours spent in meetings per governor - 40 hours

Link Governor visits into school (or on Teams this year!) - 62 hours in total

Total hours spent on training - 40 hours

Are you interested in becoming a governor?

If so, please contact the office at either school, or speak to Keith (Chair) or James (Vice Chair). Full training is provided and you can make a real difference. We would love to hear from you..

For more information about what the Governors of our Federation do, please visit the school websites:
www.bomereheath.shropshire.sch.uk or www.ruytonschool.org.uk