St Mary's Lewisham CE Primary School
Headteacher: Mrs Christine Graham

329 Lewisham High Street, London, SE13 6NX
Telephone: 020 8690 2613 Fax: 020 8690 6008
Email: admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

"Personal Development at St Mary's is Outstanding" - Ofsted Dec 2021

<u>Our Vision</u>

To be a learning community that promotes the unique gifts, wellbeing and potential of every person. Our work is founded on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, building on His message of equality, peace and justice, guided by His words 'As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34).

20th April 2023

Dear parents & carers,

I am writing to inform you of a vacancy for the role of parent governor on our governing board.

The role of the governing board

The school's governing board is responsible for providing confident and strategic leadership, and creating robust accountability, oversight and assurance for the school's educational and financial performance. The board is passionate about education and committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

The role of a parent governor

As a parent governor, you'll work with the board to make sure it effectively carries out the duties referred to above. You'll also play a vital role in bringing a **parental perspective** to the governing board, but you're not there to speak 'on behalf' of the parent body.

To be a parent governor you should have:

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children
- Good inter-personal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills

Expectations of governors

- Attendance at meetings at least once a term
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Committing to training
- Visiting the school as required
- Serving a term of office of four years

How to apply

If you're interested in applying for the role, please complete the candidate form attached to this letter and return to Sandra Noble, SBM, in the school office or via email to admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk by **Friday 5th May 2023**. If we receive more applications than there are vacancies, a secret ballot will be carried out. We will inform you closer to the time if we have to do this.

If you have any queries about this process or would like to find out more about the role, please contact Sandra Noble.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Christine Graham
Headteacher

FAITH   LOVE
COMMUNITY

Welcome to the Governing Body of St Mary's

Who are the governors?

School governors are drawn from the school community and are volunteers who wish to make a positive contribution to children's education. Our priorities include raising standards, improving the quality of teaching and making sure that children are safe. At St Mary's there are spaces for 16 governors, including governors elected by parents/carers and by staff, governors from the church community and those appointed by the Local Authority. We meet formally every term and also regularly for committee meetings. The Chair of Governors meets with the Headteacher regularly. All governors visit to see how well we are doing across the school.

What difference do we make?

Governors consider strategic issues, including the appointment of the Headteacher. We spend a lot of time looking at how children are learning, and children's progress and achievement. We also set and monitor the school budget. We examine lots of evidence about the school – from test results to your responses to the parents' questionnaire – in order to identify priorities for the coming year. We are responsible for providing support, and we are also under a duty to challenge.

We are always trying to improve our communication with you so that you are more aware of what we are doing in school and have the change to raise concerns with us. Please use the parents' questionnaire to let us have feedback or you can leave a letter for the Chair of Governors at the school office. Alternatively please email us at governors@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk.

Thank you very much for your support.

Dave Bassford (Chair of Governors)
March 2023