



St. Mary's C. of E. Primary School
Lansdown View, Timsbury, Bath, BA2 0JR

Telephone: 01761 470245 Fax: 01761 479044

Email: schooloffice@st-marystimsbury.bathnes.sch.uk

www.stmarystimsbury.co.uk

Headteacher: Miss A. Brown

30 November 2018

Dear parents, carers and staff,

You will be aware from Miss Brown's letter of 19 November 2018 that an Interim Governing Board (IGB) has been appointed for St Mary's CE Primary School by our Local Authority. I am writing to introduce myself as IGB chair and explain what this means for the school.

I have served as a governor for 11 years now, mostly as chair of governors at a CE primary school in South Gloucestershire. The school's positive OFSTED rating led to me being asked to support chairs in other schools, and I became a National Leader of Governance (NLG) in 2015. The NLG role involves mentoring other chairs, conducting external reviews of governance, and participating in interim boards. My full time job is as an engineering manager at the MOD in Bristol and my NLG work is voluntary.

The team at St Mary's have been working hard to make changes since a "Requires Improvement" OFSTED judgement in 2013. The IGB has been appointed to support Miss Brown and her team in continuing this work to attain a good or outstanding judgement. The group appointed, in addition to Miss Brown as an ex-officio governor, includes two NLGs, another experienced governor, a National Leader of Education (NLE) and a member of the previous governing board who is a secondary school teacher. One of the NLGs is also the School Organisation and Governance Advisor for the Diocese of Bath and Wells and the Local Authority's senior education improvement advisor for the school will support the IGB as well. I feel that this is a very strong group of individuals who will be in a good position to support the school staff in achieving a positive judgement. We will update the school website with our details.

The IGB will be a temporary arrangement, and aims to hand over to a normally constituted board as soon as possible after the school is on track towards good or outstanding. Joining an Academy Trust has been considered by school governors previously, and I anticipate that the IGB will revisit this question. While there may be changes in emphasis regarding any improvements that are needed, I am convinced that we will all be united in a common purpose of securing the future of the school for the benefit of local children.

The IGB will not be operating in isolation but will be seeking to engage with staff, parents and of course the children in our role in supporting the staff in finding a path forwards. The school already has a clear improvement plan, and this will continue to be followed as part of the normal operation of the school. In my first visit to the school I have been impressed with the calm learning atmosphere and friendliness of the welcome and look forward to meeting many of you in due course.

Best wishes,

Paul Moorhouse