

Dear Parents,

My name is Jane Clark and I have had the privilege of being a Governor at St John's for approximately four years. I first got to know the school when I completed a project here many years ago with Mr Yeomans. Later I acted as mentor to Mr Mills when he stepped up as Acting Headteacher before progressing to the permanent post.

Although Scottish-born, I have lived in the Midlands for nearly 40 years and spent my entire teaching career in Walsall. I taught in several Walsall schools with significant times at Rushall and then Pelsall Village where I became Headteacher. My time there was very rewarding; standards were good and there was a very happy atmosphere. We were heavily involved with Creative Partnerships (part of the Arts Council) and engaged in many exciting projects.

For many years, I was the headteacher representative on Walsall Virtual School. St John's has a well-deserved excellent reputation with this group for the special nurturing given to such children. I've also been a member of the Interim Executive Board at Jane Lane special school for the last two years, working with the leadership team there to improve standards and educational experience at the school.

Developing the Governor role here at St John's has been immensely rewarding. We are extremely fortunate to have the most enthusiastic, hardworking staff here whose focus on raising standards while nurturing the children to develop their potential is second to none. What I have witnessed is truly inspirational and I am proud to be part of the team supporting that development. I hope my background in Walsall education enables me to provide both support and challenge to the leadership team. Watching Mr Mills develop into the excellent and capable headteacher he is today has been a source of great professional pride and I look forward to seeing further initiatives being developed by him for the good of children at St John's.

It is my firm belief that children learn best when they are happy and engaged and I will support the staff in developing a curriculum that opens their imaginations and builds a lifelong love of learning. At the same time, we need to be looking to the future to prepare the children for new challenges, such as staying safe online.

The Governors at St John's are a strong, engaged group and I am very pleased to be one of their number, helping the school develop even further.

