**Governor newsletter**

New Governing Board Make-up:

In the last note we spoke about the changing of the governing board’s constitution. We were required to do this, we have now obtained the permission from the Diocese and County so the reconstitution has been completed. The table below summarises the make-up of the new board and the membership. We have a new category of co-opted governor which replaces the Community governor role and allows the board to appoint people from different backgrounds with relevant skills.

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| --- | --- |
| Post | Name of Governor |
| Headteacher | Jon McArthur |
| Staff | Clare James |
| Foundation | Father Keith |
| Foundation | Carole Wood |
| Foundation | Vacant |
| Parent | Ros Barton |
| Parent | Heather Macintosh |
| Co-opted | Sarah Horan |
| Co-opted | Peter Sutton - Chair |
| Co-opted  | Faye Heath Lay |
| Co-opted | Simon Allaby - Vice Chair |
| Co-opted  | Vacant |
| Local Authority | Judith Kew |

British Values.

There are a range of areas we are required to monitor concerning the school; finance, premises, child protection and of course teaching and learning. Occasionally the government and Ofsted have specific areas they ask us to consider. Recently there has been a focus on "British values". These are stated as ‘democracy’, ‘rule of law’, ‘liberty’, ‘mutual respect and tolerance’. This links in with debates concerning immigration and extremism you may have heard about in the news.

Essentially these elements have always made up our school values and ethos. Respect, tolerance and obedience are all strong Christian themes that underpin much of the work done at the school, strongly emphasised by the close links with the church.

We promote democratic systems and pupil voice through pupil led clubs and groups such as schools council, eco-council and church council.

Mutual respect and tolerance is aided by our external links. These include Downs Junior school, Brighton, Les Obeaux, Bondues, Lille, France and recently connections have been made with Clifton primary school in Southall, London, where 70% of children use English as an additional language, all very different situations to our own in Bolney.

Hope House Haiti.

Of course we have our Haiti Twin School of Hope house. In our mind currently with the visit of its leader and founder Yvrose Telfort Ishmael.

 All of these links highlight the differences people have in different situations, those of urban to rural affluent to less well off. But maybe most importantly these links highlight the similarities between all of us no matter what area, country or language we speak. We are all faced with similar trials and tribulations in our day to day life.

In many ways the most important part of understanding someone else's life is what it actually tells us about our own situation and our own lives. We see the people who recently have visited Hope House Haiti, the impact on their own lives has been great. We clearly see that in selfless giving we receive and in fact we are likely to receive far greater than we give.

It’s important to remember that while the problems of poverty and disaster are magnified within a country such as Haiti. Similar problems are everywhere; in every country, town, village and street. Work similar to what has been achieved in Haiti could also have an impact on people closer to us.

One of my enduring images from the pictures which have been shared from Hope house is one of Yvrose sitting on a concrete block praying shortly after a hurricane hit the area and destroyed all the tents. We see a prayer of need, made out of desperation, committed to God as a whisper. The call is magnified and heard over 4000 miles away. Its responded to and over the years we see the selfless efforts, work and successes.

These are not just British values but human values, Christian values. In seeing what can be achieved over 4000 miles away, I wonder what could you achieve for someone who is 400 miles away, or 40 miles away, or 4 miles away, or even 4 metres away.

Are we looking, are we listening?

Best wishes,

Peter Sutton