

*Together we Love, we Aim High and we Celebrate!*



## Chilthorne Domer Church School | Governor Newsletter

| SUMMER TERM 2023

### A Message from the Chair

Welcome to our second Governor newsletter. I hope this will give you a flavour of what the governors do and our role within the school community.

I took over as Chair in the Spring and will continue in the role into the next school year, with Sallyann Batstone continuing as Vice-Chair. It is a privilege to head up our team of governors who freely volunteer their time for the good of the school.

We have had some changes in our team over the last year. We will particularly miss the commitment, experience and talents of Mrs Debbie Holgate and Mr Richard Musson who have stood down as governors after long tenures. I would like to thank our departing governors for their services. We have also welcomed some new faces, giving the opportunity to refresh our approach and introduce new thoughts and ideas. Mrs Gemma Plowman and Mrs Anna Thomas are settling into their new roles. They introduce themselves below.

The landscape of education is changing rapidly, with financial pressures, changes in local authority support structures widespread drift towards multi-academy trusts. As a governing board we are actively discussing these changes and investigating the options, trying to keep abreast of the situation to enable us to be ready to make difficult decisions about the future of the school when necessary.

Sadly, it is the time of year when we will be saying goodbye to our Year 6 leavers. I hope you will always remember the school fondly. We are all very proud of all your achievements as you have passed through the school. We wish you well as you move on to the next stage of your education and hope you all fulfill your true potential.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the school office, or email me directly [pluscombe@cdcs.uk](mailto:pluscombe@cdcs.uk). I also come into school most Wednesdays and will be delighted if you want to meet me or just say hello.

**Pete Luscombe, Chair of the Governing Board**



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## Meet our Governors



### **Peter Luscombe, Chair of Governors**

"I am a local veterinary surgeon, practicing in Yeovil for over 30 years, and have lived in Chilthorne Domer for over 20 years. I have 3 daughters who attended the school and I appreciate the early education and experiences the school community gave them.

I have always tried to support the school. For many years Ash class has been visiting our lambs each spring and watching our chicks hatch in the classroom each Easter. Since 2017, I have been visiting Oak class once a week as a volunteer, listening to readers.

I previously served as a governor for 6 years when my children were pupils at the school. I re-joined the governors in the Spring of 2022 and became Chair of Governors in 2023"



### **Linda Bickerton, Co-opted Governor**

"I have lived in the village for over 20 years. Both my children attended Chilthorne Domer Church School many years ago and I am happy to continue my involvement in the school as a community governor. I work in healthcare management."



### **Sallyann Batstone, Vice-chair**

"I am Sallyann Batstone, a Foundation Governor. I am married to a dairy farmer and live in the village. Our four children all attended Chilthorne Domer Church School. I work for the NHS and, in a voluntary capacity, I am also a Reader (Licensed Lay Minister) in the Church of England.

My role and responsibility on the Governing Board is to monitor the Religious Education and the SIAMS standards.

I am passionate about the education and wellbeing of the pupils at the school, and hope in my role to support the school to reach it's vision for the future."



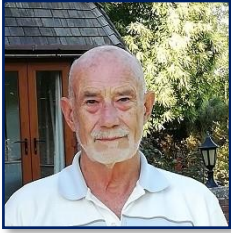
### **Anna Thomas, Foundation Governor**

"My name is Anna Thomas and I am one of the school's foundation governors.

I attended Chilthorne Domer Church school myself and grew up in the village. I have a degree in early childhood studies and currently work in an early years setting.

I regularly attend church within our benefice and it is lovely to see the children from our school attend our family services. As a governor, I am looking forward to continue building the relationship between the church and the school."

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**Howard Ashton, Local Authority Governor**

"I've been the LA appointed Governor since 2013.

It's been a great privilege to be involved with the education of our new generation.

If we can guide young footsteps in the direction of a safe and worthwhile journey through life; what better reward?"



**Gemma Plowman, Parent Governor**

"I grew up Chilthorne Domer, and am one of four generations, who've attended the School (including my son, who is currently in Beech Class).

I have 15+ years' experience of working in a business environment (i.e. Compliance/Purchasing), and am also a qualified Primary School Teacher, with teaching experience.

I currently work at Leonardo as a Quality/Process Manager, whereby I am trained in internal audits and am focussed on implementing process improvements whilst maintaining compliance to regulatory requirements.

With my varying experiences of both sides of school life, and business approaches, it feels like now is a good time to give something back to the community and merge these interests together - to hopefully contribute to something positive and worthwhile."



**Nicola Chesterton, Headteacher**

As Headteacher, Mrs Chesterton has a permanent place on the Governing Board.



**Rebecca Denley, Staff Governor**

"As a teacher at the school, my role as a governor is to represent the staff and children in the school. I feel that I can also provide a vital link between the governors and the school community."



**Tina Collopy, Parent Governor**

"I am a civil servant, and have lived in the village since 2020. My son is in Beech Class, and this is the second academic year that I have volunteered as parent governor.

I became a parent governor as I wanted to give back to the village community; I believe that experiences at this age can change the trajectory of a child's life; and I am passionate about learning and wellbeing.

It is a privilege to be able to support the school in their role to help our children flourish."

# Our Vision Statement

As Governors we will work with staff and parents to help children enjoy their learning and achieve their best in all aspects of school life.

"Raising expectations, creating opportunities, celebrating success. We will ensure that every child is provided with an outstanding education, so that they can flourish into confident young people with a sense of self-worth, which reflects God's love, who believe they can make a difference in the world."

Our vision for our children is evidenced in the school's vision:

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1 Corinthians chapter 13 vs 4-8

## What do the Governors do?

Our Governing Board consists of volunteers drawn from the school, church and wider communities. We meet each term to discuss a wide range of school issues, offering a range of skills and experience to give a wider perspective when making decisions for the school.

Our role is strategic rather than operational. This means we guide and influence the direction and development of the school rather than being involved in the day-to-day management.

Our discussion can be broad ranging but as Governors of the school we have 3 core responsibilities:



Governors ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction. The governing body helps to set long-term plans for the school, decide where improvements need to be made and how to make them.



Governors hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and the effective and efficient performance management of staff. The governing body looks at the quality of education being offered and ensures the head is doing everything possible to improve results. Reviewing and monitoring the school development plan as it evolves with the needs of the children.

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Governors oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent. Governors examine budgets and spending proposals to monitor whether the school is getting value for money and ensure the money is spent in the right areas.

In addition, we visit the school meeting staff and pupils to keep in touch with the day to day running of the school and to monitor progress being made. This in turn helps to inform our discussions and decisions at our meetings.

## Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a new governor to join our board. This is an opportunity to support our school and the children and young people in our community.

If this interests you, please contact the school office or visit the governors page on the school website for more information: [www.chilthornedomerchurchschool.co.uk/governors/](http://www.chilthornedomerchurchschool.co.uk/governors/)

## Keeping our options open

During the current academic year as part of our 2-year plan, the Governing Body has been keeping a watchful eye on the Governments planned Education Bill which detailed that all schools should be part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) by 2030. We have attended workshops run by the Diocese, we have met with other local schools and we have been researching a number of MAT's that are looking to increase the number of schools they have within our local area.

Very recently the Department for Education has announced that the 2030 target for all schools to be part of a MAT is not being enforced. This announcement will not alter our 2-year plan to research the MAT options available to Chilthorne Domer Church School, as there are other factors to consider outside of the original Education Bill such as the changes in the services provided to the school by the Local Authority and future budget constraints. There is no intention to move to a MAT in the immediate future, but the Governing Body want to ensure that we have done all the necessary research should we reach a point when joining a MAT needs to be considered to ensure continuation of the high standards the school strives to achieve.

## What is SIAMS?

You may have heard this abbreviation spoken of or seen on the school website past reports but wondered what is it all about?

SIAMS stands for the 'Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools'.

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It is an inspection similar to an OFSTED inspection but SIAMS is the system of inspection employed by the National Society, on behalf of the Church of England and Methodist Church, to fulfil their legal obligations under section 48 of the 2005 Education Act.

When the school is inspected, the inspectors make judgements on religious education, collective worship, and pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) education in Church of England and Methodist schools.

These judgements combine to enable an evaluation of how schools, through their theologically rooted Christian vision, are living up to their foundation as Church schools, enabling people (pupils and adults) to flourish. SIAMS judgements are shared with the school community, the National Society, the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE), the church, and the Department for Education.

SIAMS recognises and celebrates the specific contextual diversity of Church schools and their communities.

In this way, SIAMS provides a framework within which individual schools can answer for themselves three important questions:

**Who are we? What are we doing here? How, then, shall we live and learn together?**

At Chilthorne Domer Church School, the schools vision is:

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This is further supported by the Governors' vision – 'We will ensure every child is provided with an outstanding education, so that they can flourish into confident young people with a sense of self-worth, which reflects God's love, and believe they (every child) can make a difference in the world.'

The theological root for our vision throughout the school comes from the Bible. The passage well known to many is taken from the New Testament and Saint Paul's First letter to the Church in Corinth.

*'Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.'*  
*1 Corinthians 13. 4-8*

Our vision talks less about what love is and more about what love does. Therefore we hope that this kind of love is evident in everything we do as a school and community.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in contact with Mrs Chesterton or myself.

Wishing you all a very happy summer!

**Sallyann Batstone**

Foundation Governor, SIAMS Lead Governor & Vice-Chair.



Website:  
<https://www.chilthornedomerchurchschool.co.uk/governors/>



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