

Mgr Canon Jeremy Garratt Foundation Governor



I am currently Parish Priest of the parishes of Sacred Heart and St Peter, Waterlooville, and St Edmund, Horndean. I have been a Catholic Priest for 47 years and have served in a number of parishes in the Portsmouth Diocese where I have also been a Trustee, Member of the Bishop's Council, Vicar General, Chair of the Schools Committee and various other roles. I was trained at the Venerable English College, Rome where I also once served as Vice-Rector, and immediately prior to my present role, I was Rector of St John's Seminary, Womersley.

What do I do?

I am a Foundation Governor and, as such, am concerned with the Catholic character and ethos of the school and the school's relationship with the Diocese of Portsmouth and its Catholic Academy and Schools Office and the implementation of the Bishop's vision in relation to diocesan schools. I am also a Director of the Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust comprising Oaklands Catholic School and Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, Portsmouth.

As a Governor at Oaklands, in addition to the usual duties of governance together with other members of the Governing Body, I monitor the Catholic religious education department in the school and liaise with and support the chaplaincy team as well as delivering various services and celebrating Masses within the school on various occasions and with year groups through the academic year.

What is the best thing about Oaklands Catholic School?

Oaklands is an excellent school which takes its responsibility for Catholic education and relationship with the parish and wider Catholic community seriously. Consequently there is a strong Catholic ethos in the school which enhances and enriches the whole educational experience for pupils, parents, staff and all stakeholders, engendering a community which cares for every individual and nurtures all aspirations among its pupils.

The RE department, which I monitor, is graced with a team of very dedicated staff with a real sense of commitment to the faith and its central importance in the life and health of the school community, over and above the teaching and learning aims of the syllabus.