

Elizabeth Cluett; (Foundation Governor)



I was appointed a Foundation Governor by the Bishop in December 2016. I was brought up in a Catholic family in the north of the Diocese and went to the local Catholic schools. I am married with two grown up daughters, both of whom went to St Peter's then Oaklands; so, I know the value a Catholic education personally and through my daughters' education. I have been an active member of the local Catholic community since I arrived in the area 30+ years ago. First at Sacred Heart Waterlooville and now St Edmunds Horndean, contributing to several different ministries. I worked in the NHS for many years and as a senior lecturer at the University of Southampton. Most recently I was involved in quality assurance activity of university education for nurses and midwives across England. These experiences mean I have an excellent understanding of higher education, the world of work, and life which I can use to inform my role of Governor, I hope to the benefit of the pupils and Oaklands community.

What do I do?

I have been Chair of Governors since September 2023. This role includes Chair of the Ethos and Strategy sub committee. I have the privilege being invited to and involved with several aspects of Oaklands school life. This provides the opportunity to support the school and be a 'critical friend' and along with all the governors, be part of the governance process in accordance with the Department for Education (DfE)'s direction and guidance and, as a Catholic School, in accordance with Diocesan requirements. I am a member of the Teaching and Learning sub committee, having previously been its Chair.

In all governor activity my main focus is on high quality education centred on a Catholic philosophy. I am link governor for the Maths department, and for Looked after Children and those classified as Pupil Premium. As a Foundation Governor I have a role in, and responsibility to ensure that the Catholic vision and character of the school is maintained and enhanced across the school.

What is the best thing about Oaklands Catholic School?

A nurturing education environment where everyone, pupils and staff (including governors), is valued, everyone is supported to reach their potential and to lead a full and activity life, in the image of Christ.

An educational philosophy which is person specific and centred on Jesus. Oaklands is a place where pupils are guided, challenged, encouraged, empowered, to develop friendships, have fun, and learn, developing their intellectual, personal and spiritual characteristics, so they can become full members of society. Everyone is not always perfect, but Oaklands is a learning community, and the aim is to grow together; the school moto – Community, Unity and Opportunity sums it up perfectly.