

Clare Hopkins – Foundation Governor



My connection to Oaklands Catholic school began in 1985 when I first took up a post as a member of the English Department. Before I had my own children, I worked full time in the school for 7 years helping to develop and extend the curriculum content; I loved the community values of the school and the sense of family that was generated by the extremely supportive staff. After a few years off while my own children were very young, I returned to Oaklands where I worked in the English Department and as a sixth form tutor until retiring in 2022. When people asked me why I had never moved to a different school, I always told them how much I valued the twin pillars of academic excellence and compassionate pastoral structures which underpinned all our work. The catholic ethos of the school is a crucial element of its power to attract and retain the skilled and dedicated staff who continue to promote the welfare of all our students. I am looking forward to the challenge of working with colleagues old and new as the educational landscape continues to evolve.

What do I do?

In my role as foundation governor I attend all full governor meetings and also sit on the Teaching and Learning sub-committee. I will be taking a special interest in the Design Department which offers such a wide range of technical and creative courses to all our students. I will also be supporting staff in their work on the Oscar Romero Award with its focus on Catholic Social Teaching.

What is the best thing about Oaklands Catholic School?

The school is a close-knit community which is diverse and inclusive. Many ex-students return to teach here, displaying the bonds of loyalty and respect which the school inspires. The staff are dedicated, skilled practitioners and supportive of each other. Students know that they are valued and that staff care deeply about their progress and emotional welfare. Within the school, the catholic ethos is a deeply felt network of bonds that help both staff and students feel that they share common goals. Teachers can spend their time in active teaching and students are given every support with learning strategies. Success in every shape and form is valued. Consistently strong examination results and excellent pastoral care are the hallmarks of this institution. Above all, this school is a warm and happy environment where staff and students can thrive.