



## Sutton Benger CE Primary School Governor Spotlight

October  
2017

*Strive, Believe, Succeed! We strive to do our best, believe in the values of God and succeed together...in compassion*

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### Sutton Benger School Vision Statement

To provide a creative curriculum and inspiring learning environment which encourages every child to reach their potential by becoming a confident, self-motivated and independent learner. Through purposeful leadership and effective communication we strive to give all our pupils the lifelong gift of prayer and the certainty that they are loved and valued.

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### Academisation and collaboration

As you know we have been collaborating with Oaksey Primary School and the Hobbes Alliance schools for some time now, and continue to meet regularly to discuss the government's ongoing academy agenda, and how we ensure we are best placed to shape our own destiny, and safeguard the ethos and values of Sutton Benger School. Alongside other schools locally, we have continued our discussions with the Diocese of Bristol Academy Trust (DBAT), to explore the mutual benefits of joining their Multi-Academy Trust (MAT - a strategic collaboration of schools with trustees responsible for the overall governance). Every conversation we have continues to be grounded in having the best interests of the children and families of the community at heart.

As a governing body we are keen to ensure that the school is part of a wider organisation that can support and develop it as the role and reach of the Local Authority diminishes. We want to continue to be able to collaborate with our colleagues at Oaksey Primary and the wider network of the Hobbes Alliance, but also access and provide support, training, and school improvement services more widely, and play a key role in the government's continued aim to create a school-led, self-improving school system.

We want to benefit from the economies of scale that can be created when working together, and gain the support and expertise of a professional MAT organisation. We want to free up the time and resources of our senior leaders so they can concentrate more fully on the core elements of teaching and learning by delegating responsibility for HR, overarching financial management, facilities and other core services.

We want to shape our own destiny and be at the forefront of co-constructing the solution - we do not want to wait until we are told to join a trust. We want to co-create a local hub of schools we know and trust well, and work with a larger organisation to develop school improvement work and peer review processes within and beyond these schools, and embed high quality collaboration that leads to exceptional outcomes for children. We are determined to safeguard the Christian values and ethos that Sutton Benger School epitomises, and we want to keep our school distinctiveness and our name and uniform.

We have spent nearly two years exploring our options, carrying out due diligence fact-finding and devising what we want to benefit from, and contribute to, a wider organisation. Through many meetings and conversations we have seen DBAT develop and evolve, and demonstrate a real willingness to work with us. We believe that it is now the right time to convert to an academy and join DBAT.

We would like to invite you to a parents forum on Monday 6 November at 7pm to discuss our reasons, and provide an opportunity for you to share your thoughts, feelings, questions and concerns. We very much look forward to seeing you there. If you are unable to attend the forum but would still like to communicate with us please email your comments or questions to [clerk@suttonbenger.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@suttonbenger.wilts.sch.uk).

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## Governing Body - Co-chairs

After leading the work of the Governing Body for many years as co-chair, Mrs Katie Brown has decided to step back from the role but will stay on as a foundation governor and will continue to chair the Staffing Committee. On behalf of the whole GB, I would like to say a huge thank you for all the brilliant work Katie has done - it is very much appreciated. I am delighted to inform you that Tom Whittingham has stepped in to the co-chair role and we look forward to working together to jointly lead the work of the GB moving forwards.

## [Becoming a Sutton Benger School Governor - we have vacancies on our Governing Body](#)

School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. They set the school's strategic direction, aims and objectives, and monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achieving them.

Governors attend 6 full governing body meetings a year (these are two hour evening meetings) as well as doing some reading to prepare for these meetings. Most governors are also a member of a sub-committee which meet 3 or 6 times a year.

As you can see from the list of governors on the right we have several vacancies. We have had lots of interest around the parent governor vacancy and will be appointing someone at the next FGB, but we are very keen to also appoint several foundation governors.

If you are a regular church goer (at any church or parish) and would like to find out more about the role of a governor or to express an interest in supporting the work of the governing body, please make contact with us.

James Passmore (Co-chair)

## Members of the Governing Body

Louise Pitman-Jones	Associate Headteacher
Ursula Scott	Executive Headteacher
Katie Brown	Foundation Governor
Joan Cocker	Foundation Governor
Rev Alison Love	Foundation Governor
Tom Whittingham (co-chair)	Foundation Governor
Vacancy	Foundation Governor
Daisy Broomfield	Local Authority Governor
Barry Worth	Associate Member
James Passmore (co-chair)	Parent Governor
Mel Knight	Parent Governor
Vacancy	Parent Governor
Simon James	Clerk to Governing Body

## Key Contacts

Co-chairs: Tom Whittingham & James Passmore:

[twhittingham@suttonbenger.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:twhittingham@suttonbenger.wilts.sch.uk)

[jpassmore@suttonbenger.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:jpassmore@suttonbenger.wilts.sch.uk)

Clerk to the Governing Body: Simon James

[clerk@suttonbenger.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@suttonbenger.wilts.sch.uk)

## Sutton Benger Governors - website

For more information about what the governors at Sutton Benger Primary School do, to find meeting agendas and minutes, and to explore who the Governors are please visit the school website:

[www.suttonbenger.org](http://www.suttonbenger.org)

 Follow @SuttonBengerSch