



28 June 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Further to the letter from Bury Local Authority, dated 26th June 2019, informing you that the governing body has been reconstituted as an Interim Executive Board (IEB), I am writing as Chair of the newly formed IEB to introduce ourselves.

The IEB has five board members all of whom have been chosen for their skills, expertise and experience in order that we can fulfil the role of supporting and challenging school leaders to ensure that rapid and sustainable improvements are made. At any point we can appoint additional members of the board should we need additional capacity or specific expertise.

Bury Local Authority has worked with the Diocese of Salford in establishing the IEB, all members have been approved by the Diocese and are Catholic. All members are keen to reassure you that the mission of the school will remain at the forefront of all decision making and the development of a positive environment where children learn, love and believe will continue to be a priority.

The members of the IEB

Ruth Szolkowska (Chair) – nominated by Bury LA is Deputy Principal of Holy Cross Catholic Sixth Form College in Bury. Ruth is a senior post holder reporting to the Governing Body on all matters relating to Quality and Standards. Ruth was the nominee at the College's recent Ofsted inspection with HMI reporting *'Since the previous inspection, the senior leadership team has restructured. Leaders and managers have created a culture of high expectations for both staff and students'*. The inspection report also highlights many of the actions taken to improve the quality of education and student progress. In her previous post in Rochdale, Ruth served as a trust Governor for a local high school which had previously amalgamated. Ruth is a serving Ofsted inspector for Further Education and Skills.

Karen Whitehead – nominated by the Diocese of Salford has been Chair of Governors at Saint Ambrose Barlow RC High School since October 2017. Her first action, following appointment, was to commission an external review of governance. She is a foundation governor and chair of the school improvement committee which continues to monitor the school improvement plan. The Ofsted inspection in November 2018 noted that governors had steered the school through turbulent times, having an accurate view of the school strengths and areas for improvement. This was reaffirmed in March 2019 following the Section 48 (Diocesan) inspection *'Governors know the school well and are clear and confident about how the school's ambitions will be realised'*.

Karen has completed the National School of Formation Leadership programme for head teachers and chairs of governors this year.

Fiona Robinson – nominated

by Bury LA and the Diocese of Salford has been in Catholic education for 35 years, 28 of those years in senior leadership. Fiona is headteacher of St. Marie's RC Primary School a post she has held for 17 years. St. Marie's, a local feeder primary to St. Gabriel's, was judged outstanding in an Ofsted inspection in December 2016. Fiona continually strives for academic achievement and high standards in all areas of school life.

Fiona is a Diocesan Leader of Education working with governing bodies on appointments, acting as a mentor to newly appointed headteachers and supporting headteachers in need. She has been a Section 48 RE inspector for the last 4 years.

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Jane Hilton – nominated by the Diocese of Salford has been a lecturer at Bury College for 14 years. She is an Assistant Curriculum Manager giving her valuable pastoral experience and knowledge of the progression route many school leavers take.

Jane has been a foundation governor for 13 years at local Catholic high schools. Currently, she is Vice Chair of the Governing Body at Newman College, Oldham chairing the curriculum and attainment committee. Jane has served on two Interim Executive Boards initially at St Damien's RC High School in Tameside which was formed when the school was judged to require Special Measures and, at the request of the Diocese, at Newman College. Jane has gained substantial experience in managing change, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating success rates by analysing data.

Lynsey Eaton – nominated by Bury LA is a part-time primary school teaching assistant with two children currently at St Gabriel's. Lynsey has three years of experience in school governance at St. Joseph's RC Primary School gaining significant experience as a member of a very effective governing body. She has been actively involved in agreeing school budgets including making difficult decisions with regards to staffing levels. Lynsey serves as the governor with responsibility for safeguarding, liaising regularly with the headteacher and ensuring that the safeguarding audit is kept current.

Lynsey has high standards and expects the same from others. She is not afraid to challenge and ask difficult questions. Lynsey enjoys being a critical friend and feels that working together in a respectful way yields better results.

As board members we are all committed to this significant role in order to improve the quality of education for current, and future, students at St. Gabriel's RC High School. Our main role is to provide high-quality governance to support improvement including the promotion of high standards of educational achievement and personal development. In addition, the IEB has a duty to facilitate conversion to academy status.

As part of our commitment, we will ensure that parents/ carers are provided with regular updates as to the progress school is making.

Yours faithfully

RUTH SZOLKOWSKA
CHAIR OF INTERIM EXECUTIVE BOARD
ST. GABRIEL'S RC HIGH SCHOOL

