



Hi from me, Ben. I'm a Parent Governor at FLE. My role is to check that the school's vision and strategy is being successfully implemented, and represent 'a parent's view' on everything that the school does and stands for. I feel strongly about doing it well because I have a son at FLE and - since I come from a family of teachers - I have heard lots about successful and less successful schools. In short, I'm motivated.



I have seen behind the scenes of the school for over 18 months now, seeing the inner workings of operations and the challenges faced by staff, pupils and parents as a result of the pandemic. I wanted you to know that - from my perspective as a parent - **I genuinely couldn't be more impressed about what the school and staff do for FLE pupils currently**, whether thinking about their academic efforts, or their thorough care for the wellbeing and personal development of our children. You're unlikely to know that the wall mural painted by local artists is amazing, or the staff and school budget are managed in such a way to maximise teacher engagement with pupils, or that the school hope to return to assemblies for families ASAP, or that there are plans to return to all of the extra-curricular creative pursuits for our children that we crave...

My specific governor responsibilities are 'wellbeing' and 'attendance', and I can see that the school are working very hard and purposefully/pragmatically on both - especially as we all try to recover from the impact of the pandemic - so that high attendance levels can lead to beneficial outcomes. If you have any concerns, you should speak to class teachers - it is an open-door policy - and then my job is to confirm that the school have done all that they can to address concerns raised.

Making a difference

I can already see that governors can make a difference. I thank many of you for your petition support which helped us achieve some safety improvements to the routes to school. The report we presented last year to the relevant Councils has achieved some visible action, and there will hopefully be more to come. [The school will send you a link to the final report which describes which actions could/couldn't be taken.]

The PTA have raised over £1200 and, with the encouragement of the school, want to put it towards child-enrichment activities. Good for all parents to be aware that the coach services required to take Key Stage 2 pupils to swimming lessons for a week costs £900.

And all of us (parents) can make a difference - on a regular basis - by reading the newsletters and Facebook posts for important news, checking the website frequently for all the updates about our children's learning, and by recognising that the school staff are incredibly busy doing their very best to achieve so much with and for our kids.

My role is to keep supporting and challenging the Head and staff to maintain the high standards that they set for themselves. I'm happy to chat if you want to hear why I am feeling so positive about FLE ... and I hope 2022 will be a great year for the school and all of its pupils.

Thanks for reading,

Ben