



The Federation of St Elphege's and Regina Coeli Catholic Schools

Executive Head Teacher: Mrs F Hawkes OBE



St Elphege's Infant and Junior Schools

Mollison Drive, Wallington, SM6 9HY

Tel: 020 8669 6306

Head Teacher: Mr M Jones

Regina Coeli Catholic Primary School

173, Pampisford Road, South Croydon, CR2 6DF

Tel: 020 8688 4582

Head Teacher: Mrs T Christoforou

Deputy Head Teachers:

Mrs R Duffy, Mrs C Guilmartin-Cole, Mr L Hawkes, Mrs M Spain, Mrs N Hawkes

Monday, 30 October 2023

Dear School Staff, Parents and Carers,

Frances Hawkes OBE - Retirement – Thank You

The Governing Body of the Federation are writing to you all to mark the retirement of Mrs Hawkes as Executive Headteacher of the St. Elphege's and Regina Coeli Catholic Schools on 31st October 2023. We want to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Mrs Hawkes for an extraordinarily distinguished and successful career in the service of our schools and your children over so many years.

The governing body of the Federation marked Frances's retirement with her at their last meeting before half term. In celebrating Frances's outstanding contribution to the schools, we also wished to share with you just some of the many tributes recognising Frances's dedication, not just to the education of our children, but to serving our whole community.

The strength of faith in the schools, which is evident in so many ways, is witness to the strength of Frances's personal leadership and commitment to instilling the Gospel values in children as they grow and develop into young people. On behalf of everyone, we wish to thank Mrs. Hawkes for having taught our children how to live good and ethical lives, to know the worth of those values and how to put them into practice in daily life. Whatever a child's ability, we know that Frances has always sought to ensure that every child has an opportunity to use their gifts and to be appreciated for the talents they all have.

As a governing body, we could not have had a stronger advocate for the needs, welfare and happiness of children over the years than in Frances Hawkes. We believe this legacy will continue to benefit each new generation of children coming into school.

Frances's professional achievements are evident in the fact that our schools consistently outperform schools nationally and locally, are rated either outstanding or good, and have an extraordinary range of extracurricular activities where success shines through in music, sport and many other areas. The quality of education our schools provide is testament to the educational expertise and the sustained quality of Frances's leadership over many years. Frances has been a particularly resilient leader in times of difficulty and we know how much this has been appreciated by all of our school communities.

As governors we have seen that Frances understands the power of education to transform lives and has a distinct understanding of children and young people. At the same time as being an executive leader and school inspector, Frances has been able to stay grounded and to know the children, what they are thinking and feeling, and the issues they and their families face. Over the years this has been combined with the highest levels of educational expertise and professionalism, and an unshakeable determination that each individual child will learn and make progress. This has meant that every child who comes through the schools' gates, wherever they are from, has received the best education available to a child in this area.

Frances has steered the St. Elphege's Infants and Juniors, and Regina Coeli schools to be a federation of schools with a reputation for sustained success and the highest standards of welfare and care for children. This has had a profound and lasting impact for good on the lives of the many thousands of children who have passed through our schools.

We wish to place on record our appreciation for Frances Hawkes' vast knowledge and expertise in education, for upholding the highest of professional standards and integrity, her monumental work ethic, and her willingness to always take on challenges and face difficulties. We also wish to say how much we have appreciated the support, professional advice and guidance given to the governing body over the years.

As a leader and carer for our school community, Frances Hawkes has been an example of faith and humanity at its very best. Frances has been an inspiration to our pupils, staff and parents, and to the governors and many colleagues beyond. We are all very proud of Mrs Hawkes and thankful for her generosity, achievements and service over so many years. We hope Frances will take away a sense of great satisfaction at a job well done and of a contribution that is truly appreciated by us all.

On behalf of the governing body, staff and parents we would like to thank you, Frances, for everything you have done. You will be missed, but your legacy will live on in our schools for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

The Governing Body

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