

# St Giles’ School

**Pampisford Road**

**South Croydon CR2 6DF**

**Specialist School for Physical and Sensory**

Head Teacher: Mrs Kathy Lewis

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Registered Charity Number: 312197  
  
***‘Be the best you can be’***

22nd February 2021

Dear all across the St Giles community,

We would like to introduce ourselves as the new Chair and Vice Chairs of St Giles’ Governing Body. For those of you unfamiliar with the role, school governors are the overseers of a school. This includes being a critical friend, and many roles such as overseeing the financial performance of the school.

New Chair Mike Swadling is a local authority appointed governor who has been on the board at St Giles for 15 years, and was previously the Chair of Governors from 2007 to 2011. We have two new Vice Chairs Paul Thirkettle, a parent governor since 2015 and Kathleen Shields, a community governor since 2017.

We were appointed in December and we follow the previous Chair Councillor Callton Young MBE. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Callton for all his work during his tenure. Whilst Callton leaves us as a full member, we are delighted he stays on as an Associate Governor. The wider governing body includes another former Chair, other parent governors, staff governors and community governors, many of whom you may know. If you are interested in knowing more about the board please visit the Governors page on the school web site at http://www.st-gilesschool.co.uk/meet-the-governors.

It goes without saying the past year has been an exception, and education provision may continue to be different for some time to come. The school’s staff, pupils, volunteers, our colleagues from onsite providers and the parents and guardians have worked incredibly hard to deal with a constantly changing environment to make the school as safe as possible and, critically, continue to provide an education for our pupils.

Over the past year St Giles has come together with the Rainbow Nursery. This has extended our provision and creates a clear pathway for pupils from entering the education system to either age 16 or 19. This has been a great opportunity to bring in new expertise and pupils, and extend St Giles’ offering. The nursery in Malling Close will move to our Pampisford Road site once new buildings are in place. Please let us take this opportunity to thank those who have made this transition of service run smoothly.

In the past few weeks we have awarded a new catering contract as part of the a cluster of nine schools in Croydon who collaborate to obtain the best offering. The new contract has be awarded to Chartwells who will take up the role from the 1st April 2021. You will hear more from the school about what this means nearer the time.

Should you wish to know more about the governors or wish to contact us, please do so via the school. We hope 2021 will see the country, and education return to a more normal setting when we can once again focus on in-class education, ensuring pupils catch-up where needed, and develop their learning. Until then the school will do all it can to provide the best in-class or remote provision possible in these trying times.

Yours sincerely

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| Mike Swadling  Chair of Governors | Paul Thirkettle  Vice Chair of Governors | Kathleen Shields  Vice Chair of Governors |