Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to introduce myself as the Chair of Governors for The Roman Catholic Federation of Holy Name and Our Lady’s. My name is Charles Flannery and I have been part of the Governing body since September 2014 when I was appointed as a Foundation Governor by the Bishop.

My previous background included working for almost forty years for Manchester City Council in the Education sector, firstly as a teacher and for the last twenty years as the head teacher of a Manchester Catholic Primary School.

I am kept quite busy especially during school holidays looking after my two grandchildren as well as working with CAFOD as a school’s volunteer and working for three local authorities on school appeals panels. Both my wife and I, being Roman Catholics regularly attend Mass and we try to play an active part in the life of the local Church.

**What do Governors at Holy Name and Our Lady’s do?**

The Governing Body has three specific roles, these are:

* To be strategic
* To act as a critical friend in the development of the school
* To be accountable to the whole school community

**How we work**

The governing body has established a number of committees and statutory panels. We meet as a full Governing Body every term. The Governing Body committees also meet together every term to review and discuss the details of the school life. These committees cover:

* Curriculum and Standards
* Resources, Finance, Staffing and Health and Safety

The statutory panels only meet when they are needed and these are

* Head teacher Performance Management
* Pay Review
* Complaints
* Staffing
* Pupils
* Request for Absence

As Governors we also share a common objective which is the wider school community – working in partnership with you as parents and carers and staff to ensure that every child can succeed and reach their full potential. To achieve this and to carry out our role as Governors effectively, we need to know what issues are important to you (so we remain responsive) and ensure that you know what issues Governors are discussing (so that we remain accountable). That is why as Governors we work closely with Mrs Gordon, Ms Ward and Mr Regan and staff to ensure that we continue to deliver a high standard of education to our children at Holy Name and Our Lady’s.

I think that the most important thing to note is that Governors are a team, not a collection of individuals or groups with separate agendas. However much we may differ in our opinions and experiences we are united by our commitment to the school and the responsibility we share for the school’s long term success.

All relevant information is included on the school’s website. Please remember that the website is a good way of keeping up to date with all aspects of school life.

If you have a concern or a point of view to share please let us know. We can be contacted via the school office or by email to admin@holyname.manchester.sch.uk or admin@ourladys-pri.manchester.sch.uk

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the coming months and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to assure you that I am committed and very proud of our federation and I will continue working with Mrs Gordon and her staff team, Governors, Parents and Pupils as we all together strive to make this an outstanding federation.

With best wishes

Charles Flannery

Chair of Governors