

Susan Harris - Foundation Governor



My association with Oaklands began in 1985 with my appointment as a Teacher of English, a position that provided me with both my first role in education and an introduction to the Oaklands community. Fun and laughter are the things I recall most from my time working there and I learnt so much myself. After taking several years out to nurture my young family, all three Harris children attended Oaklands through to sixth form and were enriched by its uniquely diverse yet inclusive ethos, enjoying every moment. In addition to an excellent educational foundation at Oaklands, they made the most of the opportunities offered to them in enriching extra-curricular activities such the ski trips, as did I! In my various roles as teacher, librarian, form tutor, sixth form tutor and Head of Department, I considered myself to be privileged beyond words by my connection with this extraordinary school. Despite being extremely busy with several young grandchildren, I find myself drawn back here again, embarking on another adventure.

What do I do?

As a foundation governor, it is my responsibility to ensure clarity of vision, ambitious educational strategies and a safe, happy environment for educationalists to be able to fulfil their roles and for students to engage with that experience in the best way possible. I attend all full governing body meetings and I am currently linked to the English Department and to Literacy Across the Curriculum, using my past experience and expertise to be of service to them and to the school as a whole.

What is the best thing about Oaklands Catholic School?

Hailing from the North-East of England where I have always found people to be overtly friendly, I would have to say the warmth and open friendliness of Oaklands has appealed to me for many years. The ethos of the school embraces you in a familial way, creating a true sense of community that stays with you always. It has been an honour and a pleasure to be associated with such a wonderful institution and I look forward to being a part of it once again as a governor.