

Dr Ivan Grove: Personal Statement

I joined St Marys Governing board in May 2020 as a parent governor, my youngest son, and my daughter both attending St Marys for their primary education. Having been actively involved with the Friends of St Marys School (FOSMS), helping to raise funds for additional school facilities, it was probably a natural step to become a governor.

What can I bring to the role of governor? On a personal note, I have a love of nature and a deep belief in the power of education and knowledge to provide opportunity and fulfilment. My own experience in education arises from 21 years teaching at Harper Adams University where I became a Principal lecturer and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, now Advance HE. My subject areas covered the crop sciences, with specialisms in precision farming, soil & water management, and plant parasitic nematodes, all of which give me a solid science, mathematical and writing background. In addition to teaching, I have been actively involved with agricultural research for 30 years, including my own PhD, supervision of 18 PhD students to successful completion and the production of 38 peer reviewed publications, demonstrating academic understanding and rigour. Although my own experience is not primary school level, my teaching utilised the principles of Kolb's experiential learning theory and learning styles, which provide a solid background to teaching and learning. Similarly, the rigours of delivering to a specific curriculum, assessing, monitoring progress, and working to changing guidelines, is all part of HE teaching.

Although my teaching experience is useful, I hope also to engender a commitment within governors to utilise environmental strategies, such as the use of renewable resources, to foster understanding and good practices within our children. Consequently, I hope that my academic and life experience can support the school and the Head Teacher in providing robust education for our children, within a safe, loving, and fun environment.

"Sapere aude"

(Dare to know; Dare to know things)