**Ofsted Experiences and Tips**

**Holly Park Ofsted Experience and Tips:**

Clare Hegarty, Chair of Governors, Holly Park Primary School

Start with a good headteacher who drove this prep and a strong board

The best prep we did was months ahead of the inspection, realising we had a good story to tell but making sure we told it.

We selected a working party and decided who we needed there on the day, some for their roles, some for skills/availability/willingness. We thought it important to cover safeguarding, SEND, Curriculum, I would maybe add Equality with hindsight

Most of the group attended relevant BELS training

We had a governance review – highly recommend – thank you Bronwen & Annahita

We did a mock OFSTED governors interview – thank you Paul Whitcombe

We met as a group and thought about answers to questions, like a revision club, preparing for the exam

Take advantage of any prep the night before

On the day, load the room with good people, we had 8 and it worked very well. She couldn’t fail to see the commitment and strength of knowledge in that room.

As Chairs, we cannot and should not carry it all.

This is the list of questions that I referred to this evening:

Thinking of future Chairs facing their inspections, I wrote down as many questions as we could remember straight away.

What is the role of the governing body?

How do you set the strategic direction of the school?

How do you ensure that resources are being used in the interests of the children?

How do you ensure that the safeguarding policy is followed?

Can you give an example of a change that has happened following a review?

What are the school’s priorities for next year?

How do people know what to do if they have an allegation to make against a member of staff?

How are issues communicated?

How do you know how to do your role as a governor?

How do you hold the school to account for academic results?

Tell me about the recent restructure of your governing body.

The more challenging:

What have you done to uphold the equality act with staff? – found this tricky as we had completely focussed on the pupils.

When you do a learning walk, what are your qualifications for making judgements on what you see? All our teacher governors nearly jumped over the table! Felt that she tried to find the weakness in one of our strengths. And felt it was a trick question with a trap.

Good luck, it's a good feeling having it behind you.

**Holy Trinity Ofsted Questions:**

David Powell, Chair of Governors, Holy Trinity

* What is the strategic vision of the school?
* How do we ensure money is well spent?
* How do we carry out our statutory duties?
* How do you carry out your Equality Duties?
* How effective is teaching and learning?
* How do you challenge?
* How to you ensure safeguarding is robust?
* How do you manage staff workload?