

Pen Portrait Mary Hennessy-Jones



After about 25 years of primary school headship (and fourteen years before that in classrooms) I've just retired to follow some of my personal goals in the fields of art, design and making, travelling and taking on the monster challenge that is my garden.

My last school was Pear Tree in Nantwich and I am proud to have started it from scratch. We worked as part of a partnership of 16 schools to make sure every child in Nantwich had an equal entitlement to a good education.

My philosophy of education is organic and developing still but at the heart of it is the principle of equality of opportunity for all children no matter what their background circumstance is. Children need a rich, broad and relevant curriculum to thrive as valued and valuable citizens of this rapidly changing world.

I believe that schools and families all want the best for their children; we sometimes want different routes to the same outcome so we have to communicate well.

Staff (all staff) are the most valuable, powerful and precious resource a school has so they need to be looked after well and "maintained" to get best value for money.

I think governors are amazing people who can make a big difference to a school. They need to be committed, brave, informed and flexible a group and ready to take risks to move forward.

I have been an LLE for many years and had the privilege of supporting several schools during challenging times. I learned a lot.

I trained as a schools inspector with CfBT a few years ago and worked as an inspector for a very short period. I learned a lot more!

I loved every minute of my career in schools and while all the skills and information I gained are still current and useful I would be pleased to offer any help I can in a governor role. I know well that the HT role is very different from that of a governor and I have been lucky enough to enjoy very effective partnerships with several Chairs of Governors from which I have also learned.

Mary Hennessy Jones.

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