



# ELTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Claire Arnold

**"LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU"**

**FRIENDSHIP**

**TRUST**

**JUSTICE**

**ENDURANCE**

**COMPASSION**

**KOINONIA**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

I am writing to let you know that I have given the Governing Body official notice of my resignation. I will be leaving my post as the Headteacher of Elton Church of England Primary School on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support I have received throughout my time as Headteacher. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the school community in this role, and I will look back on my time here with great affection.

I have been very fortunate to work with some wonderful people, some brilliant teaching staff and of course your talented and unique children! I have so many happy memories of my time here. I am incredibly proud, not only of the academic, sporting and musical achievements and of the progress the school has made, but also of the culture that now exists. My proudest achievement has been to prove that if children are happy, they will fulfil their potential, and results and success will then follow. This is contrary to the data-driven/assessment approach so common in other schools where children miss out on the sheer joy of being a child and all that the wider curriculum and extra-curricular experiences have to offer.

The support of parents has been so important to my role and to the success of the school. I know my approach can be fairly left field but you have always accepted this and engaged fully in the Elton vision. I am proud that we have a primary school experience befitting of a primary school child, one that is fun with a focus on learning to learn, making friends, and having access to a range of trips and experiences unparalleled in most other state primary schools. Academic success has followed because our children are happy and because our staff work tirelessly to build relationships, and involve and engage them in their learning.

Elton Church of England Primary School is a very special place to work and leaving such a community of like-minded people is a huge risk – I doubt that I will ever find the same united spirit, vision, work ethic and humour in any other working environment. However after 14 years here (8 as Headteacher), I feel that it is time for a new challenge. Without putting myself in the same bracket as Jurgen and Jacinda, I no longer have enough left in the tank to carry out the role in the way I would like. The role needs someone who is able to dedicate more time and energy to the increased demands of running a school, and I have nothing left to give. I would like to have a better work-life balance, and to spend more time with my own children. As of yet, I do not have any plans post 31<sup>st</sup> August - I don't have another school lined up - in fact I may take a break from education altogether and try something new.

Moving forwards, I know that the school is in excellent hands with people who believe in the school vision and who are passionate about it continuing in the same direction. My one regret is that this is the strongest collective of governors we have had for a while, and I feel sorry that I will not be on board with them to share the journey. I look forward though, to working with your children this term and next, and to putting the school in as strong a position as possible before I leave.

Yours with gratitude,

Claire

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