



School Council Meeting

Questions for Councillor/Governor Jane Jones



Q: How long has it taken you to become a Governor?

A: A very long time, it took me approx. 6 years to become a Governor.

Q: What duties do you do in your daily jobs?

A: I book ambulances when people are too unwell to get to the hospital. As a Councillor I try to think of better ways to improve the borough.

Q: What is it like being a Governor/Councillor?

A: It can be very tiring and a lot of reading to do too - there are different roles to fulfil. I(We) look after different areas in the community – we scrutinise/

challenge cabinet members about decisions they have made about spending money. I also chair a committee and make important decisions.

Q: Which job do you prefer.... Being a Councillor or a Governor?

A: Both jobs are just as important – both positions have good and bad points. I was a Governor first and later became a Councillor.

Q: How much training did you need to be a Councillor?

A: I didn't have any training as such but you need life skills, will and passion to make things work and lots of dedication and hard work.

Q: Is it easy making decisions as a Councillor?

A: No! It's really hard – as there is only so much money to spend and trying to make the whole community happy and along the way may upset some people too.

Q: Is your job stressful?

A: It can be – Yes! Especially if some of the decisions aren't going to make everybody happy!

Q: How many changes have you made in Barking and Dagenham?

A: There are 52 Councillors in Barking and Dagenham, we make decisions on what happens to our ward (area) and whether that decision is best for our residence. We all have a hand in decisions made.

Q: What's the hardest part of your job as a Councillor and what are your working hours per day?

A: Approx. 9am – 6pm. Hardest part is making big decisions on what to spend the money on. In the evenings and weekends, I fulfil my Councillor duties and deal with queries from residents.

Q: Why did you choose to be a Councillor and a Governor?

A: I was a Governor first – I was chosen to be a Councillor – I worked for Barking and Dagenham for many years as a council officer and later left to do another job. I stood for election to be a Councillor – it's been a long journey.

Q: When you were our age, what was your dream job?

A: I was not very ambitious when I was younger. My mum had lots of ideas for me and said "Be what you want to be" – so I went college and undertook a secretarial job – which I really enjoyed. I was happy with the choices I made.

Q: What do you enjoy most at Becontree Primary?

A: I really enjoyed coming to the Christmas concerts here and any other events I get invited to.

Q: When working with schools, is it easy or hard?

A: As a whole it's a pleasure – you children make this a great school and you work very hard too. Sometimes it can be very difficult - as a Governor, my responsibilities are safeguarding and child protection.

Q: What can be improved in schools?

A: Schools are constantly being improved.

Q: What can be improved in the Community?

A: To make improvements, we need money, which we do not have. At present we do not have enough funding to improve roads, so we are filling the pot-holes in the roads. We are also building new housing and more Doctors surgeries in Barking and Dagenham. In Valance, we placed play equipment in the park as this was a great demand from residents (funding was provided by the lottery and charities).

Q: Why do we have Governors?

A: Governor roles are to challenge/question head teachers and teaching staff about the decision they make for you. Spending money wisely for the right things and the benefit the school/children get.

Q: How do you help schools?

A: We challenge the head teacher to improve results as Governors. As Councillors, we are improving the bad parking/blocking views near schools by installing cameras which will fine drivers who park in unauthorised areas. This will make drivers mindful of how they park near schools.

Q: What is your favourite thing about being a Governor?

A: I enjoy meeting children like you. Meeting you and talking to you today has been fantastic and a great experience.

COUNCILLOR JANE JONES ASKS:

Q: Do you feel safe in Becontree School?

A: Yes! Always

Q: If there was a problem, do you know who to go to?

A: Yes.... We know we can go to our teacher, headteacher, parents and at times friends can comfort us too.

Q: What is it like coming to Becontree?

A: Fun, we're learning something new every day. It's an honour to come here as some children in other countries don't have a choice or a school to go to. It's a healthy environment because we have bagels every morning. It's really fun, we enjoy being School Councillors, we make lots of changes regularly. We also have lots of trips throughout the years.



*The School Council would like to thank
Councillor/Governor Jones for answering their questions
and for taking the time to come and visit.*