



## *Friends of St Margaret's Class Representatives – what the role involves*

*Class Reps are a crucial link between the Friend's committee and parents who don't regularly go to meetings, as well as a hub for discussion and social interaction within classes and year groups.*

Being a Class Rep isn't an arduous job, but it is an important one which does need some time in meetings and an outgoing approach to communicating with other class parents. It is all about enabling communication, so a general interest in what is going on in the Friend's and a willingness to chat at the school gate go a long way!

The Friend's committee normally meets twice a term, and it really helps if each Class Rep can expect to attend at least half of these meetings – that's just three a year! The meetings are normally held during school time, either just after drop-off or just before pick-up and most often on a Monday or Friday. The times are always open for discussion, although after-school meetings have proved to be more complicated to arrange without getting better attendance.

Class Reps can then pass on relevant information to class parents, and pass comments or queries back to the Committee when they get the chance. In general, Class Reps are a vital connection between the active core of the Friend's and the other parents who are part of the wider community. In particular, when major events take place (mainly the Summer and Christmas Fairs) for which parent helpers are needed to supervise stalls, the Class Reps take responsibility for ensuring that enough parents sign up to cover the necessary shifts. Whilst electronic communication and social media can help with this, experience has shown that there is no substitute for face-to-face communication to get firm commitments!

Beyond this, the role is one of being a "social hub" – helping the shyer parents feel welcome and included, and helping to bring the group together by encouraging and (if necessary) scheduling coffee mornings, picnics, pub nights, etc. Sometimes a few parents may be struggling with some aspect of school life – PE kit arrangements, rules for trading cards, etc – and Class Reps can be very valuable in identifying issues that can be easily sorted out by the school staff or the Friend's. At the end of the school year the Class Reps also co-ordinate the traditional collection and card-signing for the teacher.

The list certainly isn't supposed to intimidate or scare off people who want to help out. Spread out over the year all these activities don't add up to much of an obligation week-by-week. There is the odd period when some time has to be set aside (mainly Fairs and end-of-year collections), but for parents who like being part of a community much of it will just be second nature. In fact, becoming Class Rep can help build relationships with other parents in your year and across the school, whilst also paying a vital role in bringing the school community together and raising funds to make St Margaret's an even more enjoyable and stimulating environment for our children.

*The Friends at St Margaret's can't function without Class Reps  
– are you ready to give it a go?*