



**The Tapscott  
Learning  
Trust**

*Working together,  
achieving for all*

*this is  
my  
story*

My name is Rena Begum and I am the Chair of Governors at Ranelagh. I am Assistant Principal at The John Roan secondary school (part of United Learning Trust). The reason I became a teacher was because I loved Literature (both reading and writing) and wanted to work with young people and make a difference in their educational experience, being a teacher of English allowed me to do both. I love my job watching young people turn into determined young adults who strive to change the world for the better. Being part of their journey is a privilege.

Why did you become a governor ?

I became a governor because I wanted to give back to my local community. Ranelagh is where my two young boys go, but it's also where our local community are now choosing to send their children. Working in a school I understand how important it is to have all stakeholders be part of the process of the educational system, but also the value outside eyes can bring. My experience within the sector and as a practitioner, who sees these Primary school children move to Secondary phase, allows me to be the critical friend who supports Ranelagh to grow and develop.

What's your favourite thing about being a Governor?

Visiting the school and seeing all the policies and strategies in action. I love when children share their book work and talk about their learning. Even more so, I love that as Governor we see all the fun stuff too and are invited to all the fairs, parties and events.

How do you support Ranelagh?

My job is to challenge and discuss moving Ranelagh forward. I meet with the Head of School regularly and ask her questions to ensure that the systems and decisions made are the right ones made for that time. I then pass this information onto the governors who discuss and question. Whole Lab meetings are held 4 times a year, but the governors have areas in which they focus, mine is Curriculum and EYFS. Governors come along to all the social events at Ranelagh of which there are many - Singing concerts, poetry recitals , winter and Summer fairs to name a few.

Would you recommend being a governor to others? Why ?

Yes absolutely! To understand the hard work, love and commitment all working in the educational sector do to ensure our young children, the future of humanity, can develop into articulate, resilient, well-rounded young people. It is an act of service but one which has so many rewards because you can see and, in a small way, be part of making that difference.