

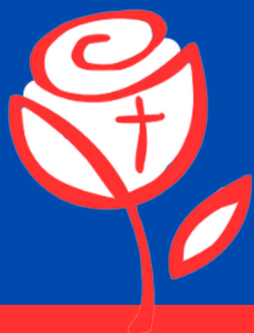
MAKING
LIVES
BETTER

TEAM TALK

MEETING THE PEOPLE
WHO MAKE LIVES BETTER

Helen Golding

- Would like to visit Egypt
- Enjoys adding to the biodiversity of the school's greenspace
- Loves to visit Cornwall



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ST TERESA
of CALCUTTA
Catholic Academy Trust



Meeting the People Who Make Lives Better



What's your perfect weekend?

My perfect weekend involves no alarm clocks. Preferably there would be wall-to-wall sunshine, a walk somewhere beautiful with my family, some outdoor cooking and then time to read outside in the garden.

Describe a moment in your current role that made you feel especially proud.

There are so many small moments in every day that make me feel proud.

The moment when you can see learning clicking into place – when an early reader pushes the sounds together and actually reads the words on a page. When you step back and look at the progress in a child's work book or listen to them speak confidently to a visitor. When their manners become automatic in the lunch queue. When one child sees another finding something difficult and steps in to help without being asked. I think it is really important to recognise these moments. Each one shows the impact of your teaching, and it also shows that the job that we do does change lives.

What's something surprising about your job that most people wouldn't know?

It's not part of my job, but I can often be found at odd hours doing various bits of gardening. I think it's important that children connect with nature and experience the joys of growing things. So I consider preparing raised beds for growing seedlings, researching different bulbs and plants and generally adding to the biodiversity of my school's greenspace to be part of my job.

Do you have a favourite place you love to visit again and again?

I love the north coast of Cornwall and have walked the whole length of it. Several weeks of almost every summer holiday as a child were spent there and even now, if I haven't been to those spectacular beaches I feel as though I haven't been on holiday. To my mind, holiday and Cornwall are one and the same.

What's one thing on your bucket list you still hope to tick off?

I remember learning about Ancient Egypt when I was a pupil at St Vincent's Primary School. Miss Kelly, my teacher in year 5, was a master storyteller. She brought history to life and inspired in me a love of history that has lasted throughout my life. Egypt is on my bucket list. I would absolutely love to see the ancient city of Petra and the Pyramids of Giza with my own eyes.

In one sentence, how would you sum up what "Making Lives Better" means to you?

I would say that "Making Lives Better" means doing your best to improve the lived experience of the people around you – that might mean doing the best job that you can in the classroom, providing breakfast for a child who has missed theirs, checking in with a colleague, offering to help someone because you see that they need it or singing 'that song' again. It's doing all the small things that add up to making things better for everyone.

Which book, TV show or film do you recommend to everyone?

I am a bookworm and I read everything that comes my way. I couldn't possibly choose just one.





Meeting the People Who Make Lives Better



If you could swap roles with anyone in the Trust for a day, who would it be and what would you hope to learn?

I can't imagine doing a job that didn't involve working directly with children. This is the reason that I became a teacher and these are the moments that bring me the most joy. I think if I were to be part of the central team for a short while I'd like to create a new role for myself – one which is responsible for researching and applying for all possible funding to subsidise exciting new experiences for children and young people. I would want to apply for nature grants on the behalf of all the schools in the trust, for them to spend on their own projects. I would want to see if it were possible to apply for Heritage funding and bring groups of schools together to work on local history projects. I would want to apply for grants that would subsidise the costs of theatre trips and educational (and sometimes just fun) visits. There must be so many opportunities for funding like this, but finding out about it, and applying for it takes a lot of time and effort. So, to have the role of organising loads of new (and fully funded) opportunities on the behalf of all the schools in the trust, expanding on what schools already offer, sounds very exciting to me.

What do you think makes your school a unique place to work or learn?

Our Mission statement begins... 'Our school is a safe and happy place where we welcome everyone into our school family'. Every person who comes here notices these things about St Teresa's. Perhaps it comes from being a small school, or from having a long-serving, stable staff. If you were to ask the children about what makes our school special, they would, and do, say 'We do small things with great love'. When you ask them what this means they say things like, we are kind to each other. We work hard. We help our friends. We try our best. The staff don't say this, but they do it every day.

If you could instantly learn a new skill to use in your role, what would it be?

I would absolutely love to speak another language confidently and fluently. But which language that would be changes with each child who arrives from somewhere else in the world. Moving from another country and starting school in England, being surrounded by people who are talking but do not understand you, must be so hard. To be able to have a conversation which sets the children and their parents at immediate ease in their own home language would be the most amazing skill. Until then I'll keep plugging away at French and Spanish on Duolingo.





We hope you have enjoyed learning about a member of our Trust family who works so hard to Make Lives Matter. If you would like the opportunity to work with people like this, please visit our Trust website to learn more.



Learn More



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact
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