

# Jo May – School Committee Member

I was elected to the Castel School Committee at the parish elections in November 2020 and took up the position with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. I learned about the role when I attended the Women in Public Life open afternoon prior to the elections. When I saw in the Gazette Officielle that there were vacancies, I went to the Douzaine Room to find out more and, left with a nomination form. Sadly, it was not a contested election.

The school committee is made up of three members elected by the parish (or parishes where there is more than one parish in the catchment area), the Headteacher and, a member of the Committee for Education, Sport and Culture ('ESC'). The members of ESC decide amongst themselves who is going to sit on which committee but they have a representative on every school committee.

My start on the committee was, of course, disrupted by Covid, so it has perhaps been slower than I would have liked. One of the tasks of a school committee is to take part in interviews for the Headteacher. Castel was one of two primary schools who had a new Headteacher from the start of the Autumn term, so we were called into action before we had even met. We had to elect one member of the parish representatives on the committee to form part of the interview panel.

When lockdown lifted we were invited to the school for a tour and met each other, the teachers and some of the students. At our first meeting we elected a Chair and a Secretary (me). The main purpose of the parish representatives on the committee is to ensure that the exterior of the buildings and surrounding areas are maintained as the parish would expect. At each meeting the Headteacher updates the committee on any maintenance issues, progress on on-going maintenance projects and also curriculum updates. We have also discussed matters such as road safety.

The time commitment is not huge. There is a 45 minute meeting once a term and where there are actions there might be some follow up in between meetings. Whilst not committee business, I have offered my services at school fetes/PTA events.