



The Governing Body of St Mary's C of E Primary School

'Learning for Life'

24th July 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

As we draw towards the end of the academic year, we thought it would be useful to make contact with you to share a Governor Impact Statement.

The most important thing that any Governing Body can do is to hire the right Head Teacher. Mrs Chambers has provided effective leadership, empowered her team and energised the school – it is a hive of activity. Mrs Chambers has provided the Governors with full, appropriate & timely data about all aspects of the school's performance. The new energy and rigour brought into the school has paved the way for the Senior Leadership Team to start putting together the foundations of our new school curriculum, alongside the implementation of new teaching methods in the classroom and ways in which this can be monitored.

"Teachers and teaching assistants have welcomed renewed purpose and direction in the Schools development and are committed to playing their part. There is a buzz about the Schools work, as improvement in teaching are implemented and standards begin to rise" Ofsted report, 2019.

We have privileged perspective as Governors on all aspects of the school. We have three main roles. Firstly we shape the future direction of the school, jointly with the Head and senior leadership team (The Vision). Secondly, we hold the school to account for academic progress. Thirdly, we assure ourselves that the finances are sound.

Key issues to be addressed in 2019-2020

"Leaders and those responsible for governance should ensure that: Recent developments in teaching are fully established across the school so that all groups of pupils, including disadvantaged pupils, achieve as well as they should, particularly in writing. Governors develop an accurate view of the school's performance in order to provide effective support and challenge for school leaders." Ofsted Report 2019

Key actions taken by St Mary's governing body since summer term 2018

- Our new Chair of governors, Chris Howard, joined us in November 2019 and is effectively leading the changes and impact of the FGB.
- We commissioned a 'health check' in March on our performance by a formal Review of Governance. This was carried out by an external consultant and it generated three actions.
 - 1) One was to carry out a Skills Audit of the governors. The results of the governor's skills audit show a strong overall score.
 - 2) Another was to adopt a flat structure for future meetings – which meant moving away from formal sub-committees. This will start next year- the whole Governing Body will have oversight of all aspects of the school's effectiveness.
 - 3) The third was to build a visit programme for Governors that links to the School Development plan. This will be fully implemented next academic year.

You may like to know about personnel changes in the Governing Body over the past year. Our sincere thanks to Martin Watts and Hector Wilson as their terms of service as governors come to an end and to Kate Chenery for whom we wish the best in her new role as Head Teacher at St Lawrence School, Chobham.

We have welcomed Tracey Townsend and James Felgate our newest recruits. New appointments to the governing body have strengthened the skillset and experience available to the governing body and we are grateful to our new colleagues for joining us.

If you are interested in finding out more about the schools governing body, the school website has information about our role and full details of our Open Meeting protocol.

It is an exciting time for St Mary's. Our thanks to parents for their ongoing contributions to the school, whether that's by through supporting staff on school trips, at school events or by supporting the learning at home. All of this makes a huge difference.

On behalf of the governing body we hope you all have a restful summer break.

Yours faithfully
Geoff Hurst and James Felgate (Parent Governors)