

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School

Governing Body Annual Statement

September 2019

Governing Body	<p>With members from across the local Enfield community, St Andrew's governing body is a broad group of individuals with varied backgrounds and skills who come together to support and drive the school's continued development. The governing body regularly reviews its make-up and skills set to ensure it has the skills and diversity needed to meet its responsibilities to the school and its pupils.</p> <p>Following a careful analysis of its current skills and future needs, this year the governors welcomed a new member to the board.</p> <p>See Annex A for details of membership of the governing body and main committees</p>
Role of Governing Body	<p>A school's governing body has three main responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) To help set and maintain the ethos and strategic direction of the school;ii) To hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; andiii) To ensure that the school uses its resources effectively and for the benefit of the pupils. <p>At St Andrew's, the full governing body meets in the autumn, spring and summer terms, to ensure that these responsibilities are fulfilled. The full governing body meetings are supplemented by regular meetings of a number of sub-committees, particularly the Resources and Curriculum committees. These committees look in greater depth at plans and proposals from the headteacher and senior leadership team, as well as considering the levels of attainment and progress of the children in the school. The committees report to the full governing body.</p> <p>In addition, some governors have special responsibility for specific aspects of school policy, for example on safeguarding, core subjects, RE and GDPR.</p> <p>The governors are focussed on supporting the headteacher and the staff in providing positive opportunities for every child, in an inclusive Christian environment.</p>
Staffing	<p>The school staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are the most valuable asset for any school, and at St Andrew's the governors are pleased that the school has a full staff complement to start the 2019/20 school year. The governors have been involved in staff recruitments and are satisfied that all the appropriate procedures have been followed, including those relating to safeguarding.</p> <p>The governors are sharply aware of the importance of a stable staff body to the continued success of St Andrew's and the need to ensure a positive working environment to achieve this. The governors monitor staff well-</p>

	<p>being regularly and ensure that staff well-being is a key factor in their considerations of policies and practices at the school.</p>
Achievements	<p>During the 2018/19 school year, there were a number of notable achievements. The new school hall was officially opened and consecrated by the Bishop of Edmonton in October and has proved a very welcome addition to the school. In addition, the Breakfast and After-School clubs have proved very popular, and the governors are pleased that the school has been able to extend its provision in this way.</p> <p>In February the school was inspected by Ofsted, and the governors were also involved in the inspection process. It was a challenging day for everyone involved with the school, but the governors were pleased that the result was an endorsement of all the hard work undertaken by the headteacher and the staff in the three years since the last inspection, to consolidate good practice in teaching and learning and to embed high academic standards.</p> <p>The governors are pleased that the school continues to set high expectations, so that each child is encouraged and supported to achieve their best, not only academically but also in everything that they do. The success of St Andrew's pupils in a wide range of local and national activities, including sports, music and debating, is a testament to the success of this approach.</p>
Curriculum	<p>The Curriculum Committee has oversight of the policies relating to teaching and learning in the school, as well as pupil attainment.</p> <p>During the past year, the school has continued to demonstrate its commitment to developing a broad and balanced curriculum, providing opportunities for the children to broaden their understanding. For example, Parliament Week (held in November 2018) focussed on the centenary of women getting the vote and the governors who attended the main debate were very impressed with the high standard of debate, the maturity of the arguments put forward and understanding of the issues that the children displayed.</p> <p>For the coming year, the governors are keen to support the school in further developing the arts curriculum, including specific art and music teaching. The school will also be trying to make greater use of the educational opportunities in the local area, with more trips and visits around the borough.</p>
Resources	<p>The Resources Committee sets a policy framework for all expenditure, including levels of expenditure that are delegated to the headteacher. It ensures that expenditure is focussed on the School Development Plan and on meeting the needs of all pupils. The committee recommends the school budget (annually) for the next three years for approval by the full governing body and oversees the annual audit return.</p> <p>The governors have worked to support the headteacher in seeking to achieve a balanced budget in a tight financial climate of increasingly limited resources. Although this means ever tougher decisions, the governors are pleased that this is being achieved while maintaining as</p>

	<p>broad a curriculum, range of opportunities and support for all St Andrew's pupils as possible. The governors recognise and appreciate the significant financial support provided to the school by its community and parents, both directly and through the work of the PTA.</p> <p>With the national financial situation not anticipated to ease significantly in the coming year, the governors will continue to monitor the school's use of its resources, its contracts and suppliers to ensure best value for pupils' benefit.</p>
Admissions	<p>The governing body regularly reviews the admissions criteria which are used to award places in the school. St Andrew's remains a popular school and there are always more applications than there are places available.</p>
Activities	<p>In addition to attending governing body meetings, the governors are involved with the life of the school in other ways. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) They participate in learning walks, to see for themselves how the school operates (each learning walk focusses on a particular aspect of the school's work); ii) They sit on recruitment panels; iii) They contribute to events run by the PTA (eg running the Grand Draw stall at the Christmas Cracker); and iv) They attend school church services and assemblies. <p>The governors also ensure the continued development of the necessary knowledge and skills for their role, attending training courses – in particular this year for GDPR and inspections – and studying a range of policy documentation and national guidance.</p> <p>During the year the governing body also conducted a self-review of its practices and activities.</p>
Future Plans	<p>The governors will continue to work closely with the headteacher and the senior leadership team, to address the recommendations contained in the recent Ofsted report in relation to further deepening pupils' knowledge and understanding across all subjects of the curriculum.</p> <p>The governors look forward working with the headteacher and senior leadership team to embed St Andrew's new enhanced vision in its structures and policies and to see it lived out in full throughout the school. This includes the development of a robust assessment framework for RE, as well as further enhancing the children's experience of and participation in collective worship, as well as providing opportunities to deepen spirituality of everyone in the school community.</p> <p>The governors will also provide support as the headteacher and senior leadership team review and renew strategies for reading, pupil premium and EAL in the coming year.</p>
Contact us	<p>The governors can be contacted at any time via the school office.</p>