

**St Andrew's Church of England Primary School**

**Governing Body Annual Statement**

**September 2020**

<b>Governing Body</b>	<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>See Annex A for details of membership of the governing body and main committees</p>
<b>Role of Governing Body</b>	<p>A school's governing body has three main responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) To help set and maintain the ethos and strategic direction of the school;</li><li>ii) To hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and</li><li>iii) To ensure that the school uses its resources effectively and for the benefit of the pupils.</li></ul> <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>
<b>Staffing</b>	<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 2020/21 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-being regularly and have appointed a Staff Well-Being Governor to liaise with the school on this issue. This ensures that staff well-being is a key</p>

	<p>factor in the governing body's considerations of policies and practices at the school.</p>
<b>Achievements</b>	<p>During the 2019/20 school year, the governors were pleased at the many notable achievements in all areas of the school's activities, which have been celebrated and shared in the school newsletter.</p> <p>In October 2019, the school was the subject of a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) and the governors were also involved in the inspection process. The inspection was carried out under a new inspection framework, which examines all aspects of school life to determine whether the school's distinctive Christian vision enables pupils and adults to flourish. The governors were delighted that St Andrew's was graded "Excellent," with the inspector commenting particularly that "God's love [was]... at the centre of school life and work" and that "there is a clear emphasis on the importance of the individual and on recognising their gifts and talents." The governors are grateful for the efforts of all members of the school community in making our school such an "hospitable and inclusive" place.</p> <p>The Christian ethos of our school has also underpinned the heroic efforts made by the headteacher, senior leadership team and staff to ensure that the school has continued to support children and families throughout the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The staff kept the school functioning for the children of key workers and were proactive in reaching out to those families with children learning at home, or who were in need of additional help. The re-opening of the school to children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 in June was also very well-managed, with great care being taken over protecting the physical and mental well-being of all concerned. The governors are very proud of the way that everyone at St Andrew's rose to this unprecedented challenge.</p> <p>Renewing and replacing the playground equipment was also an important achievement. The Governors remain very grateful to the PTA and parents for their contribution to this and other projects, as well as their ongoing support for the school.</p> <p>Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, the governors continued to fulfil their responsibilities in relation to the school's performance and strategic direction, keeping in close contact with the Headteacher via email and telephone and holding Governing Body and Committee meetings via Zoom. We are very pleased that, despite COVID-19, the school continued to encourage and support each child to achieve their best in everything that they do.</p>
<b>Curriculum</b>	<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 deepening the children's knowledge and understanding across all subjects of the curriculum, in line with the recommendation of the latest Ofsted inspection (carried out in February 2019). The types of opportunities given to the children are kept under review and are varied to</p>

	<p>ensure that ideas are kept fresh and the children’s interest in participating is maintained. For example, the Maths Week of previous years was replaced by an Arts Week, with opportunities to experience a wide variety of activities from all aspects of the arts. Instead, Maths was combined with a focus on well-being and charity in a Number Day organised by the School Council in conjunction with the NSPCC. The governors have very much enjoyed participating in these events and have appreciated the opportunity to see at first-hand how these events have benefitted both pupils and staff.</p> <p>There was a particular focus on reading during the past year (both promoting a love of reading and developing the teaching of reading within the school) and this was progressing well before the school was closed as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. The new RE curriculum was introduced and the assessment framework was also in development before the school had to close, as were the plans for the introduction of the new mandatory <i>Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE)</i> curriculum.</p> <p>The governors are keen to see the planned activities in all these areas revitalised as soon as possible in the new school year.</p>
<b>Resources</b>	<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 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>COVID-19 has been an additional challenge and whilst Government has reimbursed direct costs caused by the pandemic (such as sanitiser and signage), indirect costs (like the loss of revenue from lettings) has not been covered. This makes managing the budget across the forthcoming year even more challenging. We were pleased that the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS) funded the fitting of new boilers over the summer break to replace a system that was more than 30 years old.</p>
<b>Admissions</b>	<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>
<b>Activities</b>	<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"> <li>i) They participate in learning walks, to see for themselves how</li> </ul>

	<p>the school operates (each learning walk focusses on a particular aspect of the school's work);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii) They sit on recruitment panels;</li> <li>iii) They contribute to events run by the PTA (eg running the Grand Draw stall at the Christmas Cracker); and</li> <li>iv) They attend school church services and assemblies.</li> </ul> <p>The governors also ensure the continued development of the necessary knowledge and skills for their role, attending training courses – in particular this past year for the new SIAMS inspection framework – and studying a range of policy documentation and national guidance. The governors were also represented at a meeting to discuss the relationship between the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS) and the schools under its care, organised by the Bishop of London, Dame Sarah Mullally.</p> <p>During the year the governing body also keeps its practices and activities under review, to ensure that it continues to meet its statutory responsibilities and operates effectively, transparently, fairly and legally.</p>
<b>Future Plans</b>	<p>The governors will continue to work closely with the headteacher and the senior leadership team, to address those elements of the recommendations contained in the February 2019 Ofsted report and the October 2019 SIAMS Inspection report, which were still outstanding at the time the school was required to close because of COVID-19.</p> <p>In the coming year, the governors will also be addressing the further development of the Foundation Subjects curriculum, the issue of staff workload, and the implementation of the School Improvement Programme.</p> <p>Above all, the governors will continue to work with the headteacher, senior leadership team and staff as they address the legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges associated with settling the children back into school life and the more formal learning environment after a prolonged period of disruption.</p>
<b>Contact us</b>	The governors can be contacted at any time via the school office.