



## St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

### Governing Body Annual Report 2022/2023

Dear Parents,

It is with pleasure I present on behalf of the Governing Body our annual report for 2021/22

Thank you for taking time to read it and engage more fully with the school.

Reflecting back over the past year a lot has happened. It has been a year when we began to feel the school could return to 'normal', whatever normal will now be. It was with a real sense of relief that 'zoom' no longer loomed large in school life for our children, although it continued to have advantages for meetings when time was not spent travelling.

September saw the start of the new year with 13 children joining us in reception. As always within our school community a lot of work had gone in to make the transition into school as smooth as possible. At last, the Nativity Service was once again open to parents in the extended hall. The new format with the Key Stage 1 children taking part in the 'Midwife' Crisis performance, and on a separate date the Key Stage 2 classes presenting a Christmas themed evening of music, drama and poetry. On another happy note Sports Day, 2023 was held on sunny afternoon with parents, governors and friends able to join the school for a fun filled occasion with refreshments served by the Friends of St. Mary's.

The leavers service was a wonderful celebration of the 16 young people who have spent 7 years at St. Mary's. Their speeches expressed their memories and thanks for the time spent at school and it was very humbling to hear them articulate their memories and thanks to the school so well.

Governors have returned to face- to- face meetings once more and have been working to support the school. We have welcomed the opportunity to share in training sessions with the staff to enhance our understanding and involvement. Open the Book and some Collective Worship sessions are organised and led by a governor. Governors have also attended Celebration Collective Worship on Friday morning. It is a joy to see our young people rewarded for their success across all aspects of their school life, academic, social, sporting and out of school achievements.

The Governing body thanked Stuart Varley for his work as vice chair of governors and wish him well. Gary Bowman, a co-opted governor has also resigned and we wish him success in his new job. These co-opted roles will be filled in the new term. One parent governor position will be up for election in the autumn term. There will be opportunities for parents to be nominated for the position. It is a privilege to work alongside a dedicated and enthusiastic team of people who work to support the Governing bodies Vision and Values statement, which underpins all we do.

#### **Adding Value – Making a Difference.**

I continue to work closely with the headteacher to ensure the Governing Body fulfils its objectives to offer challenge in a supportive and constructive way (something all governors are expected to do). Governors work as Links in Key areas such as SEND and Safeguarding and in all curriculum areas, where visits are made with staff to share understanding and progress.

As Chair of Governor's, I would like to express my thanks to staff, governors, volunteers, parents and children for all they do to make St. Mary's Church of England Primary School successful. The staff worked tirelessly throughout another year to maintain the excellent educational provision which St. Mary's School prides itself in, to develop our children academically, socially and spiritually, upholding our distinctive Christian Ethos

We continue to have amazing support from the Friends of St. Mary's School (FOSMS) allowing investments in school experiences that are not provided for in the delegated budget from the Local Authority. The funds FOSMS raise greatly benefits the children and adds to our vibrant learning environment.

A refurbished kitchen is now run by Sandra who has returned to the school and with Teresa ensures lunches are a great offer for children, staff and visitors. Special events are catered for, such as our amazing Coronation Lunch, Wimbledon Lunch and end of term Seaside Spread. The catering team scored an amazing 98% in a recent audit. Well done ladies.

In September we welcome Mrs Halliday back to the team after her sabbatical and she will be joining Mrs Batchelor in Class 2 and Mrs Owen moving into class 3. Mrs Walmsley is reducing her teaching time and will work in class 4 with Mrs Gee. Mrs Boast will remain in reception.

Our children have benefited from learning to adapt, share new experiences, meet new challenges and continue to be a source of pride to you, their parents/carers and the whole school community.

The whole governing body, the staff team at the school and our colleagues at the Diocese and Local Authority (LA) remain committed to providing a school where all children succeed to the best of their ability in an environment that is caring, safe, stimulating, challenging and happy, based on our Distinctive Christian Ethos. We look forward to another year where we as our Vision states, we are:

## **Small school, big heart, learning and growing together'**

The Education Act (No. 2) 1986 requires all Governing Bodies to prepare an Annual Report on their work. This report acknowledges the excellent work and achievements of the school during the academic year 2022/23

Yours sincerely,

Glynis Ashford

Chair of Governors

August 2023