

MARLBOROUGH ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Governors Annual Report to Parents 2019-2020

Published November 2020

Introduction

The Governors would like to begin this report by thanking all the staff of the school {teaching and non- teaching} for their commitment and resilience in this year of unprecedented challenges. Mrs Schwodler and her team have worked tirelessly and flexibly to maintain high standards of provision.

In March, staff responded quickly to the demands of a mixture of on-line and face to face teaching {often whilst juggling the demands of home schooling their own children}. The school remained open for the children of Keyworkers and Vulnerable children and staff were proactive in maintaining contact with every family. Comprehensive risk assessments were conducted and many new routines were implemented so children could return safely to school. Every class was able to return to school before the summer holiday. The full time return to school in September has been a great success and especial thanks are due to the cleaning staff whose work is even more vital than ever.

Governors have maintained their core functions through a mixture of remote and face to face meetings. New staff appointments have been made and budget and policy reviews have been monitored. We are monitoring the quality of remote and classroom teaching and the use of targeted "Covid Catch up Premium". This year we have welcomed five new Governors and currently have no vacancies on the Governing Body. In September 2020 Gill Macdonald has taken over as Chair of Governors with Dawn Steele serving as Vice-Chair.

Attendance is high and even though staff are tired the school is in good heart; this is testament to the leadership of the school and the professional commitment of every member of staff.

GOVERNANCE

Governors are volunteers who give up their free time to benefit their school. The role of Governors is to be "a critical friend" to the Head Teacher and school leadership team who are responsible for the day to day operational running of the school. We do this through visits, classroom walks, surveys, reports and attendance at school events.

We focus on these core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction for the school
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The role of the governors includes:

- Setting the school's aims and policies
- Improving standards of teaching and achievement
- Setting the school's budget plans and monitoring expenditure

- Interviewing and appointing teachers and support staff
- Acting as a link between the local community and the school
- Dealing with complaints about the school
- Drawing up an action plan after an inspection, and monitoring the success of the plan
- Prepare an annual report which is shared with parents

Governors do not inspect the school, have involvement in the day to day running of the school, authorise all expenditure, decide which pupils will be admitted to the school or decide how pupils are taught individual subjects.

Governing Body

Our Governing Body is made up of 14 Governors, appointed as follows:

- *six Governors co-opted by the governing body who can bring a range of skills, knowledge and experiences to the Governing Board;*
- *two Parent Governors, appointed by a ballot of parents;*
- *three Foundation Governors, appointed by Salisbury Diocese, in consultation with St Mary's Church, Marlborough;*
- *one Local Authority Governor appointed by Wiltshire Local Authority;*
- *two Staff Governors {including the Head Teacher}*

The Full Governing Body {FGB} meets once every half term. There are also two committees which meet in advance of the FGB for more detailed discussions and to review policy documents. The Finance and Resource Committee monitors finance, staffing, property and health and safety. The Teaching and Learning Committee monitors pupil progress, attendance, safeguarding and behaviour .

An experienced professional Clerk supports the Governing Body, ensuring all relevant topics are covered. A list of current Governors and their responsibilities can be found on the school website.