

Governor's Annual Statement **2020-2021**

The Governors would like to thank Mrs Schwodler and her team for leading and managing the school through the exceptionally challenging times over the past unique year. We would also like to thank parents and carers for all the support they have given to the children and the school - we know how difficult sudden switches to remote learning have been. Finally, thanks to our pupils who have shown such flexibility, resilience and good humour throughout the different routines, truly living out our six school values of Respect, Friendship, Courage, Perseverance, Fairness and Love.

Overview of the Governor's Year

When the school closed to all pupils other than vulnerable children and key workers' children, our governance adapted to essential business - monitoring health and safety, pupil and staff wellbeing, safeguarding and school finances. Our school leaders had to make a huge number of important and difficult decisions over this time and as a Governing Body we have been fully involved with constantly changing Risk Assessments. As the school opened again, we were able to make some in person visits again and were able to hold a rigorous recruitment process over 2 days in July and successfully recruit a new Headteacher for January 2022.

Covid restrictions limited our normal patterns of engagement with parents and carers but the Governor's home learning questionnaire provided useful feedback on the school's remote learning provision.

The curriculum has continued to be taught in full and we have remained ambitious on pupil progress. On each return to school, a Covid catch up programme was quickly implemented whilst maintaining a focus on child well-being. The school's financial position remains robust despite the extra challenges Covid brought.

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.

Key Functions of the Governing Body

- *Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction*

- *Hold leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff*
- *Oversee the financial performance of the organisation and make sure its money is well spent*

Governing Body

We were joined by 4 new governors in 2020-2021 which has strengthened the skills on the board, including Christine Foulkes a retired school business manager who advises on financial matters, Jenny Fryer who has taken over as SEND link governor, Julia Hodgson who brings her expertise as Director of Admissions at Marlborough College and Vanessa Minchin our new parent governor.

Our Governing Body is made up of 15 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)
- One Associate Member (no voting rights) who advises on financial matters

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, health & safety, staffing and property. The Teaching and Learning Committee monitors the curriculum, 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.