



Governor Update – End of Academic Year 2017/2018

This newsletter provides an update to parents, school and parish community, on the progress made this academic year at St Mary's. We have summarised the key achievements including inputs from each of the chairs of the governor committees: Teaching & Learning, Finance and People. We have also identified additional areas for development as we move into the next academic year.

We recognise that each achievement listed below has been the result of dedication, commitment, focus and hard work from the full school community, during a year that has posed significant challenges to the health and wellbeing of the teaching team. The excellent results are a testament to the power of the whole team pulling together to continue delivering excellence in education and personal development for all pupils. We would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- Mrs. Barry - for her dedication to St Mary's in her first year in post, her contagious enthusiasm and her invaluable support of the teaching and learning support team in a year of significant turmoil.
- The teaching staff - for their incredible commitment to our school and their willingness to go above and beyond to ensure 'normal' service despite extraordinary circumstances.
- The children – for their continuing enthusiasm for independent, active learning and success across academic studies, sports, music & dance. Of special note, parents should be very proud of their children's heartfelt responses to the challenges faced this year, which they have responded to with prayer, empathy and a willingness to help staff and each other.
- Parents and families – for all your support at home, where much of their learning can be extended and practised, in school and on school trips and sports activities. Your kind wishes, prayers and offers of help have all been received gratefully. We look forward to your return: positive, refreshed and prepared to embrace change.

We hope you find this report informative and wish you a very enjoyable summer!

Key Achievements

- Excellent academic results have been achieved: 68% of year 6 children achieved expected standard for Reading, Writing & Maths compared to 64% nationally (Age Related Expectation at Key Stage 2); 66% of year 2 children achieved expected standard or above for Reading, Writing & Maths (Age Related Expectation at Key Stage 1). More detailed analysis and national comparison data for KS1 will be provided in the governor report in the first term of 2018/2019.
- Successful RE validation was completed in May 2018 by the Diocese of Portsmouth, resulting in an overall effectiveness rating of Good. The school was noted as *"a Good school with Outstanding features" – "St Mary's is an outstanding example of a Catholic school community, where the mission statement and Christian ethos have a very positive impact."*
- The Literacy and Numeracy College continues to offer extra learning opportunities and support initiatives resulting in positive impacts on children's progress.
- Extra-curricular activities, such as expert visitors, participation in sports tournaments, the forest school and class visits to strengthen the overall learning experience and personal development for all children.
- Safeguarding continues to be at the forefront of everything we do and is constantly monitored by the People Committee, and the safety and well-being of the children is paramount. Governors have received recent training and not only are there appropriate procedures in place which are regularly audited, but safeguarding is integrated in practice into the day-to-day life of the school.
- Successful introduction of the Insight tracking system across the teaching team, enabling greater visibility and analysis.
- Increased focus on physical activity, including the daily mile and the purchase of new sports equipment, funded by the sports premium.
- Careful management of our limited school finances has delivered the year on budget and allowed us to carry out necessary works, including safety door access controls, toilet refurbishments and pupil computer updates.
- Capital investments made to improve the school for the benefit of the children including the outdoor gym. Submission of CIF application for new doors, windows and revised fencing.
- Effective induction of new foundation governors, together with completion of extended induction handbook for ongoing use.
- Governor representation on the RE Validation Committee.
- Updating of FGB skills audit, linked with individual CPD records and any resulting appropriate training programmes.

Areas in Development for 2018/2019

- Focus on child-centred curriculum planning to meet the new Ofsted guidelines for Inspection in 2019 and beyond.
- Creating greater opportunities for pupils to challenge their thinking and learning in RE.
- Raising pupil and parent expectations and aspirations
- School finances are expected to remain limited in the coming years, so we will be developing our plans to ensure we can maximise the children's education within our limited funds.
- Encouraging ongoing increased presence of the governing body at the school, through regular class visits, attendance at school events, and information supplied through the weekly newsletter.
- Addressing any skills/knowledge gaps within the governing body, highlighted by the recent skills audit, through the consideration of any internal/external training programmes.

Thank you for your attention

This update has been developed by the [school governors](#) as part of our continued focus to build on strengthening our communication with parents, the families of our pupils and the wider parish. The governors are a regular presence in school and their contact details are available on the website and from the school office. We hope you have found this update useful.