



## Governor Update – End of Academic Year 2016/2017

This newsletter provides an update to parents and the full school community, on the progress made this academic year. We have summarised the key achievements to date 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 under the new leadership of Mrs. Barry, who we look forward to welcoming in September.

We recognise that each achievement listed below has taken combined commitment, focus and hard work from the full school community, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- Mrs. Laycock - for her leadership, enthusiasm and drive over the past 12 years to bring St. Mary's to its current position of excellence.
- The teaching staff - for their continued commitment to our success in the implementation of the new school curriculum.
- The children – for their continuing enthusiasm for independent, inquisitive learning and success across academic studies, sports, music & dance.
- Parents and families – for all your support at home, where much of their learning can be extended and practiced, in school and on school trips and sports activities.

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

### Key Achievements

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- Excellent academic results have been achieved: 79% for Reading, Writing & Maths at Age Related Expectation or Expectation + at Key Stage 2; 67% for Reading, Writing & Maths at Age Related Expectation or Expectation + at Key Stage 1. More detailed analysis will be provided in the governor report in the first term of 2017/2018.
- The profile of the governing body has continued to be raised and has increased greatly, with regular class visits, attendance at 'parents into school' events, and Governor pictures displayed in the class windows, increasing governor partnership with both the school and parents.
- Safeguarding continues to be at the forefront of everything we do and is constantly monitored by the People Committee, and the safety and wellbeing 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.
- Assessment calendar and parent consultation meeting changes have been received positively, providing greater visibility of progress and specific areas of challenge and focus to both parents and pupils.
- The Literacy and Numeracy College and other extra support initiatives continue to have a positive impact on children's progress.
- Extra-curricular activities, such as expert visitors, the forest school and class visits strengthen the overall learning experience and personal development for all children.
- Capital investments made to improve the school for the benefit of the children including the toilet refurbishment, the grant for the roof and the proposed markings for the playground.

### Areas in Development for 2017/2018

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- Continuing to drive improvement for all learners in order to meet ARE (age related expectations) and beyond.
- Ensuring governors have an understanding of behaviours for learning.
- Establishing a way to analyse the impact of the increased presence of the full governing body (FGB) and the benefits this has on the school.
- Continuing to track and extend governor CPD (by Governors reporting back on training attended).
- Supporting the five new Foundation Governors who have recently joined the governing body to become active and effective Governors to further strengthen and enhance the FGB.
- Specific focus on the budget challenges faced by the school due to increased running costs and decreasing income from central funds.

### Thank you for your attention

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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.