



St Blaise Church of England Primary School

Achieving together

Governors' Annual Community Report

July 2018



Love, Respect, Determination, Peace, Creativity and Creation

Message from the Chair of Governors

The governing board continue to ensure that our school reaches out to both parents, carers and the local community, which provides further opportunities for our children to thrive in a happy and successful environment.

There have been many successes this year including our expansion to four classes, our outstanding SIAMS inspection, wonderful performances of Oliver! and Lights, Camel, Action, sporting involvement and memorable country dancing.

We have also faced challenges on a limited budget and are very grateful to Mrs Leach and her team for their tireless hard work and dedication to the school and the children. A big thank you to parents and carers for their support and involvement with the school, this really does make such a difference to the children's progress. The fundraising efforts of BOBS are much appreciated, as are those of all the other volunteers who give up hours of their time to support the school.

What do governors do?

We provide leadership and direction for the school. Our roles include holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and management of the staff and to ensure that our limited budget is well spent. Mrs Leach and Mrs Green are governors, along with eight other people. These ten people make up the governing body, which makes decisions as a whole for the benefit of the school.



What have we achieved?

Each year, we agree a plan of action for areas that need to have a particular focus in our School Vision Map. This year's targets were:

- Improve attainment and progress in maths
- Improve attainment in writing
- Raise attainment through quality feedback and marking
- Planning for the school's expansion
- Achieve a good SIAMS grade
- Increase the effectiveness and awareness of governance

We have regularly checked on the improvement in maths and writing, along with the feedback and marking. The lead teachers (Mr Lyne and Mrs Kirkham) have explained the actions taken to improve learning to the governing board. A governor has also observed 'learning walks' where the lead teacher observes all teachers. This monitoring, along with regular updates from Mrs Leach and analysis of the results of assessments, assures the governors that pupils are making good progress. We also know from this monitoring that teachers are reflective and keen to improve their teaching; this includes finding interesting ways of motivating and engaging the children in their learning.



Our school expansion to four classes was very successful and much progress has been made towards the next phase of our expansion, due to start next summer. We continue to work hard so that the school can continue to operate in a safe way, with the least disruption as possible, when the building works start.

As a Church of England school, we received a SIAMS inspection and were delighted for all involved to be rated as Outstanding. During the year we monitored the different worship assemblies and were very pleased to see an improvement in everybody's understanding of our core Christian values.



Governors have held meetings, visited the school and were actively involved with its running throughout the year. This was through formal meetings including data analysis, attending assemblies, parents' evenings, performances and pupil parliament, to ensure progress was being made that ultimately improves the outcomes for all the children.

In addition to this work we monitored and have action plans for Special Educational Needs (SEND), looked after children, disadvantaged pupils (Pupil Premium) and Equality. Two governors have the role of taking a particular interest in these aspects. This has included supporting Mrs Leach in her role as SENCo with development plans (these can be found on the school's website) and having termly meetings to understand what is being done to support each child and family. The actions from the Equality Policy and Plan (also on the website) ensure that we are always mindful of the needs of all pupils and have one of our core values 'Respect' at the heart of everything we do. Importantly, we have monitored Health & Safety accidents and incidents and any safeguarding issues as needed. We are also accountable for ensuring our sports funding is used to improve the fitness and health of pupils. We have discussed this spending and looked to maximise the ways pupils will really gain from it.

Regarding the local community and supporting parents, we have long standing links with Red Dragon Pre-School and are delighted that so many parents choose to send their children to our school after attending Red Dragon. Our breakfast club has supported parents and children alike. We have participated in events involving the local churches, parish council, and the annual Story Fest and village fete, all of which help to promote our school in our community.

What about next year and further ahead?

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We will continue to have tight budgetary pressures on us as a small but growing school. As before we will manage our budget to the best we can, making the money stretch to give the most benefit to the children and balance the budget. We will continue to work on the expansion of the school and look at different academy options.

Conclusion

The governors have fulfilled their statutory and best practice requirements and at times exceeded them. Great progress has been made against this year's targets, with much of this work continuing next year. A big thank you once again to everyone involved in making St Blaise a very special place and good luck to all our Year six children who embark on the next chapter of their lives at Secondary School.

