



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School and Nursery

THE GOVERNORS REFLECTION ON THE PREVIOUS ACADEMIC YEAR

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

This year we said goodbye to Mrs Weatherill who had served as a loyal Foundation Governor at St Mary's for many years. We welcomed Mrs Povey as a Foundation Governor, Mr Kurian as a Parent Governor and Mrs Pierpoint as a Local Authority Governor.

We started the year knowing we were in an Ofsted window. Little did we know we would be inspected the week before Christmas! After two very long days, with 4 inspectors, lots of intense scrutiny and plenty of angels and fairies, we were delighted to retain our overall good grading. Staff and governors were delighted with this result as it reflected our own judgement in our Schools Self Evaluation. The inspection team thoroughly enjoyed their visit to St Mary's, commenting on the warm and stimulating family environment in which children can learn.

The following quote from the Inspection Report published in January is very poignant for staff and governors. It recognises the schools strengths in ensuring the welfare and safeguarding of our pupils is paramount. This is a fundamental to everything the school strives to achieve.

“The quality of the school's care, guidance and support for pupils is a notable strength and is outstanding”

To continue to provide a safe, suitable and stimulating environment for the pupils and staff, we have approved the funding to replace our two mobile classrooms and to refurbish the family learning centre. I think you will agree they both look absolutely stunning!

In addition to this, governors have approved funding to continue the further improvement or replacement of the following:

- To resurface the Car Park and Pathways.
- To replace the Nursery Toilets
- To replace the Perimeter Fencing
- To resurface the KS2 playground
- The addition of Shade and Shelter on both playgrounds
- To create Paths and Bridges in Shady Hollow
- The addition of Decking for the children to use as an outdoor stage.

Governors have continued to regularly visit school to monitor various aspects of the School Improvement Plan, this has included meeting with Subject leaders, Class Teachers, attending SEN meetings, learning Walks with Senior Leaders and meetings with the School Advisor. During our visits we have observed how policies are followed and how they are applied. We have also closely monitored progress towards end of year expectations.

We have worked with various groups of children to understand their learning and what they enjoy most. During our discussions with the children it is clear they know if they are not in school they

have lost days for learning, days they cannot get back. They understand the impact this has on their academic progress and social wellbeing.

Our visits to school help us to really get to know the school well, which in turns creates opportunities to enable us to question and challenge Senior Leaders.

Continuing to strengthen links with the home - school parish partnership, governors have been involved in many events in and out of school, including Parent Consultation Meetings, Musical Concerts, Advent Performances, Charity events, Masses, Assemblies, Sports days and Sporting Events as a part of the Crewe and Nantwich School Games partnership.

In addition to our termly Full Governor and committee meetings governors continue to meet regularly in school during the day informally for a 'Discovery Day'. As part of the visit we enjoy engaging with pupils during lunch.

Governors attend training where necessary to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to carry out their roles. We have taken advantage of a number of on line courses and to further our knowledge we have attended additional training provide by the Diocese and Cheshire East Governance. We consider our school visits to be a valuable part of our training, we use our experiences to develop our skills and knowledge to enable us to become more effective governors.

Although Academy conversion is no longer on the political agenda, this continues to be in our discussions, but we do not currently see a benefit for St Mary's in going down this route.

LOOKING AHEAD, WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR

The Governing Body of St Mary's are looking forward to another busy year which will see the induction and appointment of a foundation governor. With the landscape forever changing in education, we will continue to keep abreast of the changes and ensure we engage in the relevant training to develop our skills and knowledge to adapt.

Pupil numbers will be a new focus this year as we look at ways to market St Mary's to increase our admission numbers. Over a two year period we have seen a decline in the number of early year's admissions, this is a worrying trend. Sadly one we will not be able to sustain long term.

Although standards continue to rise, Maths will continue to be our whole school focus in 2018/19. With the introduction of our new scheme "Power Maths", we will look to see a more consistent approach to teaching which in turn will improve progress for all learners. An additional focus will be to increase the number of pupils accessing greater depth in all subjects and to ensure our less able learners continue to receive additional support through intervention and differentiation, to enable them to reach their own milestones.

2019/2020 will see the introduction of a new Ofsted framework. Governors and Senior Leaders will look to review the changes this year. What this means for our school, how will it differ from the current framework and look to make any necessary changes to standards and age related expectations.

As we continue to provide a safe, suitable and stimulating environment for the pupils, staff and visitors to our site, improvements and maintenance work will be ongoing around the site for as long as funding is available.

We would like to thank all our parents and carers for their continued support. Also a huge thank you to all our amazing staff for all the wonderful work they do every day.

