



St Edmund Campion
Catholic Primary School

Governors' Report to Parents 2024-25

The governors are pleased to report on a successful year for the school. It is wonderful to see the children continue to flourish academically and individually throughout the year, working towards fulfilling their potential. We give particular thanks to Mrs Camp-Overy who has once again this year, worked incredibly hard to ensure: an ambitious and broad education for all our children, the availability of many enrichment clubs, school trips, local workshops and in-school experiences. We were pleased to see the new school Instagram account this year, where you can view all the wonderful experiences the children participate in, and there are many! The school and nursery have continued to thrive this year under her guidance and with the support of the senior leadership team.

We, as governors, over the last few years have heard very clearly from you our parents and carers, the need for wrap around care. After an incredible amount of work from the school team, we were delighted to introduce the offering last September. It is very successful and after a monitoring visit in the spring term, the governors found a very high standard of provision and importantly a warm and caring environment for our children. We are very grateful to the team who work hard to care for the children before and after school.

As expected, Ofsted came a few weeks ago to assess the progress from their last inspection. As has already been shared by Mrs Camp-Overy last week, we are absolutely thrilled that we are outstanding in all areas. It was an incredibly busy time for Mrs Camp-Overy and the staff team so huge thanks go to them, the children – who made us so proud, and to those of you who so kindly supported the staff team during this time. The parent survey results were overwhelmingly positive, so thank you to all those who completed it. It really is a team effort.

As you are aware, last February we joined the Mother Teresa Catholic Trust. We have been working hard as part the new MAT for the last 18 months and we have made a significant move forward in terms of strengthening and developing strategic leadership at Trust level. We are grateful for all the support they have given us over the last year.

We continue to be very fortunate in having a stable local governing body of committed individuals who possess a wide range of skills and experience to support our school community. Our teamwork is paramount in carrying out our wide range of responsibilities for the benefit of our children, parents/carers and staff. This year we welcomed Kevin Harte and Jenelle Cosby to the team as foundation governors, and we are grateful to have the benefit of their skills and time over the next four years.

The governors' role is to support and encourage the continuing development and improvement of the school and nursery by; challenging the leadership team, recognising success beyond the Ofsted framework, and making them a place where staff love to teach and children love to learn. Safeguarding is paramount to our role and the governors appoint a safeguarding governor each year who undertakes training and has frequent visits into the school to ensure the policies and procedures are followed. All staff and governors have had safeguarding training this year. The governors also ensure that we talk to a group of children each term about safeguarding.

We endeavour to operate at a strategic level, leaving Mrs Camp-Overy and the senior leadership team responsible for the operational day-to-day running of the school.

The local governing body has two main committees: Curriculum and Standards (curriculum impact on the attainment and progress of children) and Finance and Resources (finance, staffing, premises and health and safety). In addition, the full local governing body met four times this year to; review progress of the committees, evaluate and monitor strategic plans and to review and report on safeguarding. The governors undertook a rigorous process of self-evaluation last November, to make sure that we are meeting the highest standards effectively. All governors have attended training throughout the year to facilitate challenging questions. Details of those who contribute to the afore mentioned committees can be found on the website. Overall, governors have good attendance at meetings. This year, the governors have enjoyed a year of

coming into school and nursery to undertake monitoring visits, talking to the children, meeting staff, watching plays, attending school masses and liturgies, assisting with Eco group and enjoying school events.

We are extremely proud of our school and nursery's achievements this year:

1) Promoting our Catholic Ethos

As the governing body of a Catholic school and nursery, our overarching responsibility lies in ensuring that they are conducted in accordance with its Catholic character at all times and this overriding duty permeates everything that we do. Fr Liam brings the school community together brilliantly in worship and we would like to give a special thank you to him for another year of support and care for our community. The governors appoint a school Catholic life governor to ensure we carry out our responsibilities to the Bishop. This year the governors have attended assemblies, nativity plays, liturgies and masses.

Catholic Social Teaching is at the heart of our curriculum and the children now have a good understanding of the principles. These principles are our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world. The governors also ensure these principles are at the heart of our decision making.

Continued thanks go to Mrs Camp-Overy and Mrs Marriot and to all staff, children and governors who work so hard to ensure we are doing our best to live our faith.

2) Maintaining the Highest Standards

The governors met three times this year to monitor the impact of the curriculum offering. We also review progress of all year groups and focus separately on how disadvantaged children are benefiting from the pupil premium grant (details of how the grant is spent and outcomes for children are on the website) and how children with SEND are progressing. We are passionate and proud that our curriculum offering is designed with all children in mind. There is a strong focus on high standards throughout our curriculum and the pupil's strong attitudes towards their education show a real love of learning. Our Key Stage 2 results at the end of the year are excellent and continue to be significantly above the national average.

One area of focus for the governors this year has been on ensuring our Early Years Foundation Stage goes from strength to strength and that our children with Special Education Needs continue to have the best provision we can offer, so they are able to reach their full potential. The governors have also focused on ensuring the curriculum continues to be ambitious and broad for all. As well as English and Maths, the children spent time on subjects such as RE, Geography, History, Science, PE, Art, DT, French, Music and PSHE, which provide the children with the rich curriculum which we are so passionate about. Over the year, the governors have come into the school regularly and visited lessons to ensure this diversity. In addition, we have been into school each term to chat to the children about their learning and subject leaders have provided informative presentations at our meetings.

3) Managing Resources

This year the Finance and Resources committee met to scrutinise the budgets, ensuring the money is spent efficiently and with due diligence. Effective financial management is always important, and unfortunately as in previous years, the current economic climate continues to be incredibly challenging. As you are aware, over the last few years we have also been greatly impacted by rising inflation and limited increases in government funding. Although we have additional income from our lettings, successful PTA fundraising and support from the Parish this year, for which we are incredibly grateful, it continues to be increasingly difficult to balance the budget.

As we move forward with ever constraining budgets, our desire to provide the children with the best possible equipment and facilities to assist with learning proves to be a tough challenge. We are incredibly grateful for all those who contribute to our "School Development Fund". The £30 a year requested contribution (payable via Arbor) aims to raise money to continue to offer the children the high standard of education we want for them. For those who are able, we would urge you to consider this invaluable contribution, or indeed whatever amount is appropriate for you.

4) Talking to the Children

As governors, one of the highlights of the job is being able to talk to the children. We are so proud of how polite, honest, confident and articulate the children always are. The governors spoke to groups of children from all year groups, three times this year and you can find the highlights of these chats on the website.

5) Communications

The governors value our communications with you and listen to any comments and feedback. Thank you to those of you who respond to the school questionnaires in the autumn term. The governors review the results carefully. In addition, I would like to encourage you to contact Mrs Camp-Overy with any questions or concerns you have. We always enjoy the opportunities to meet with our parents and carers and at the start of each year I send out an information sheet of all those on the local governing board so you can recognise us. You are welcome to come and talk to us. At this point, I would like to confirm that I will remain as Chair of Governors for next year and Patricia Opalko the Vice Chair. I am keen to be accessible to you, so if you would like to speak to me, please contact the office to make an appointment and I will be very pleased to meet you.

Moving forward

In September, the governors will continue to work closely with our Multi Academy Trust. Our focus will be continuing to assist the Multi Academy Trust in embedding effective and efficient systems and processes so the Trust directors can gain increasing understanding of the school and the school can benefit from the collaboration. In addition, we will continue to focus on our strategic plans for next year as directed by the Trust. These will focus on the overall education experience for our children.

A sincere thank you to all staff for their hard work and dedication this year. We are so grateful to have such a fantastic team. We would like to say goodbye and thank you to Elle Parsons. We wish her well for the future, she will be greatly missed by us all, especially the children.

We would like to thank our parents and friends, for all your support to the school and nursery and your children's education throughout the year.

In addition, we would like to wish our year 6 children every success in their secondary school education and beyond.

Finally, we would like to wish you and your children a safe and happy summer holiday.

Julia Evans
Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Body

If you have any questions regarding anything in this report, please feel free to contact any of the governors via the school office.