



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School
Governing Body Annual Report 2023/2024

Dear Parents,

It is with pleasure I present on behalf of the Governing Body our annual report for 2023/2024

Thank you for taking time to read it and engage more fully with the school.

Reflecting back over the past year a lot has happened. It has been a year when we were inspected!

Although we were expecting a visit from OFSTED (last inspection 2011) we were more than a little surprised to be told we had back-to-back inspections with SIAMS (the church inspection equivalent to OFSTED)!

You can read both inspections on the website and we are enormously proud of the manner in which your children conducted themselves over those 3 days. Equally so, all the staff proved what a dedicated and skilful team they are.

September 2023 saw the start of the new year with 13 children joining us in reception. As always within our school community a lot of work had gone in to make the transition into school as smooth as possible. At last, the Nativity Service was once again open to parents in the extended hall. The new format with the Key Stage 1 children taking part in the nativity performance, and on a separate date the Key Stage 2 classes presenting a Christmas themed evening of music, drama and poetry. On another happy note Sports Day, 2023 was held on a sunny afternoon with parents, governors and friends able to join the school for a fun filled occasion with refreshments served by the Governors.

The leavers service was a wonderful celebration of the 12 young people who have spent 7 years at St. Mary's. Their speeches expressed their memories and thanks for the time spent at school and it was very humbling to hear them articulate so well their memories and thanks to the school.

Governors have been working hard to support the school. We have welcomed the opportunity to share in training sessions with the staff to enhance our understanding and involvement. Open the Book and some Collective Worship sessions are organised and led by a governor. Governors have also attended Celebration Collective Worship on Friday. It is a joy to see our young people rewarded for their success across all aspects of their school life, academic, social, sporting and out of school achievements.

The Governing body has seen valued members moving on. Our thanks go to Ann Watson a Foundation governor who I am delighted to say will continue to support us with Open the Book and Experience Church. Dave Riley and his family have moved house and we will miss them all, Hannah has been a great volunteer parent helper in class 1 and the 3 children were such a happy trio. Gary Bownan has also left as a parent governor as his long association with the school came to an end in July when Matthew moved on to Tadcaster Grammar School.

We are delighted Liz Mastin has become the Foundation Governor and vice chair of the Curriculum committee and to welcome Helen Durham as a community co-opted governor. Alice Hanratty, a former parent and chair of FOSMs has joined as a community co-opted governor. It is a privilege to work alongside a dedicated and enthusiastic team of people who work to support the Governing bodies Vision and Values statement, which underpins all we do.

Adding Value – Making a Difference.

I continue to work closely with the headteacher to ensure the Governing Body fulfils its objectives to offer challenge in a supportive and constructive way (something all governors are expected to do).

Governors work as Links in Key areas such as SEND and Safeguarding and in all curriculum areas, where visits are made with staff to share understanding and progress.

As Chair of Governor's, I would like to express my thanks to staff, governors, volunteers, parents and children for all they do to make St. Mary's Church of England Primary School successful. The staff worked tirelessly throughout another year to maintain the excellent educational provision which St. Mary's School prides itself in, to develop our children academically, socially and spiritually, upholding our distinctive Christian Ethos

We continue to have amazing support from the Friends of St. Mary's School (FOSMS) allowing investments in school experiences that are not provided for in the delegated budget from the Local Authority. The funds FOSMS raise greatly benefits the children and adds to our vibrant learning environment.

We changed our school Meals provider this year and with our kitchen run by Sandra and with Teresa this ensures lunches are a great offer for children, staff and visitors. Special events are catered for, such as our amazing Coronation Lunch, Wimbledon Lunch and end of term Seaside Spread. The catering team scored an amazing 98% in a recent audit. Well done ladies!

Our teaching staff have largely remained very stable. Mrs Boast continues in class Mrs Halliday and Mrs Batchelor job share class 2. In class 3 Mrs Owen has been on Maternity leave and had a little boy, Elis in February. We look forward to welcoming her back in January 2025. We welcomed Mrs Young into class 3. Mrs Gee is in class 4 and although Mrs Walmsley reduced her teaching time continues to work in class 4 with Mrs Gee. At the end of the summer term, we said good bye to Mrs Stott and we wish h er and her family well, although we will still be seeing her in her role as a parent. Also Mrs Gibbs who chose to retire and we hope she enjoys her leisure time.

Our children have benefited from learning to adapt, share new experiences, meet new challenges and continue to be a source of pride to you, their parents/carers and the whole school community.

One of our latest resource is the updated Forest School Area. Funded by FOSMs the area has been revamped a new classroom built and is now a secure accessible area for everyone to enjoy. We again welcomed Bishop John to school to open and dedicate this space.

The whole governing body, the staff team at the school and our colleagues at the Diocese and Local Authority (LA) remain committed to providing a school where all children succeed to the best of their ability in an environment that is caring, safe, stimulating, challenging and happy, based on our Distinctive Christian Ethos. We look forward to another year where we as our Vision states, we are:

'Small school, big heart, learning and growing together'

The Education Act (No. 2) 1986 requires all Governing Bodies to prepare an Annual Report on their work. This report acknowledges the excellent work and achievements of the school during the academic year 2022/23

Yours sincerely,

Glynis Ashford

Chair of Governors

August 2024