

Dear Parents,

It is with pleasure I present on behalf of the Governing Body our annual report for 2025-2026

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

Reflecting back over the past year a lot has happened.

September saw the start of the new year with 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. Like wise we liaise and work very well with the secondary schools to support our year 6 students as they transition into Key stage 3.

The 'new' format for our Nativity play continues to work very well in the school hall for Key stage 1 children, with 2 performances enabling parents to enjoy the performance. We are grateful to the Gateway Church in Acomb for the loan of their staging and the group of parents who help to transport it. On a separate date the Key Stage 2 classes presented a Christmas themed evening of music, drama and poetry. Our Easter Service at St. Mary's Church was a joyful occasion, welcoming parents once again. On another happy note Sports Day, 2026 was held on sunny afternoon. The new format was rolled out after listening to pupil and parent. 'voice'. The organisation ensured the children were involved in activities on a carousel model, ensuring they were involved all afternoon and kept busy! The parents, governors and friends able to join the school for a fun filled occasion with refreshments served by the Governors.

July saw the culmination of our year 6 children's seven years at St. Mary's, where we have nurtured and supported these children from reception through to year 6. Just as with the reception children who are preparing to come to us in September are receiving a caring and thoughtful transition programme so our year 6 children were given the same degree of support as part of their transition to secondary schools. The leavers service was a wonderful celebration of the young people who have spent seven years at St. Mary's. Their speeches expressed their memories of the time spent at school and it was very humbling to hear them articulate their memories and thanks to the school so well. We wish them every success in their new schools and welcome hearing their news as they progress through life.

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. Although Ann Watson retired as Foundation governor she has continued to support us with Open the Book and Experience Church.

Some Collective Worship sessions are organised and led by a governor or Reverend Martin and Reverend Karen. It was a very special service at Selby Addey on June 28th 2026 when Karen Flood was ordained and will continue as a priest in our parish of 5 churches. Karen has been working with us and leading Collective Worship in school for the past year and will continue to do so bringing her ideas and new initiatives. One of which is to welcome our reception children and parents to a service in the church on 29th of September 2026. Governors have also attended Celebration Collective Worship which is held 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 welcomed 2 new parent governors, Marissa Quickmire who brings great experience in Health and Safety and Jenna Partington who will be a great addition to the Finance skillset of the Governing Body.

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 is, **Adding Value – Making a Difference**. This underpins all we do.

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

As a school 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. In the past their funds enabled the school to develop the Sensory Garden and update the Forest School with the new classroom, equipment and enhanced spaces.

Our school lunch provision continues to be a great asset. Run by Sandra she ensures lunches are a great offer for children, staff and visitors. Special events are catered for, such as our amazing, Wimbledon Lunch and end of term Seaside Spread. The catering team scored an amazing 98% in a recent audit. Well done!

Our teaching staff have largely remained very stable. Mrs Boast continues in class 1, Mrs Halliday and Mrs ?????? job share class 2. In class 3 Mrs Owen continues in 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.

Our team of TA's works hard to support our children, across the school. Mrs Goodwin and Mrs Kettlewells skills and empathy are vital in supporting the ELSA provision, as well as their vital in class role. Mrs Waugh supports class 4 and we welcomed ??????????and ????????to the team.

As our children progress through the school the changes and challenges our children meet are supported both academically, socially and emotionally which benefits them in many ways, from learning to adapt, share new experiences and meet new people. They continue to be a source of pride to you, their parents/carers and the whole school community.

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, developing our children academically, socially and spiritually, upholding our distinctive Christian Ethos

The whole governing body, the staff team at the school and our colleagues at the Diocese and Local Authority 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 are, as our Vision states,

'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 2025- 2026

Yours sincerely,

Glynis Ashford

Chair of Governors

September 2026