

St. JOSEPH'S GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Thank you to every member of staff at St. Joseph's who have helped to make this another very successful year for the children. The Governing Body has worked hard in the process of getting a new school building and to make it a 2 form entry school. This will provide an additional 15 spaces per year, starting with the Reception Class only in September 2018. We are hoping that the new School will be operational from September 2019. We set up a New School Building Group with those Governors with various skills in this field. Please see their report below. Our detailed work is carried out in our Sub-Committees and by our Governors with specific responsibilities. We meet as a Full Governing Body twice per term to make decisions as a corporate group.

New School Building Group

This new Committee has met frequently this year either alone; with the Priority School Building Project Team(PSBP); the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA); Herts County Council (HCC); the Diocese of Westminster; or mostly, all together. We are grateful for the financial support that we have been given by HCC to pay for the new school building to be 2 form entry and to include 2 reception classes. The funding that we have from PSBP would provide a school at our current size of 45 pupils per year and it would not include reception or nursery classrooms. We have negotiated a loan from the Diocese to pay for a nursery class to be included in the new building. This must be repaid over 5 years. We know that the plan is for the new building will be two storeys high to cater for the bigger size but apart from that we have not reached the interesting stage of design yet. There will be an application for planning permission that we must get through next.

Premises, Finance, Health & Safety and Critical Incident Committee

Another successful year in terms of Financial Stewardship with the new 3 year Budget being accepted by Herts County Council. The school constantly reviews current and future expenditure in terms of efficiency, value and safety controls. The Committee is in the process of supporting the Governing Body in its negotiations regarding New Buildings; the funding required and all safety aspects.

Admissions Committee

The Committee reviews the School's Admission Policies considering Diocese and Local Authority requirements. We administer the School's admissions criteria for applications for Nursery and for Reception separately. There are currently 45 places in each. Nursery and Reception places are considered separately because Nursery is not compulsory and some parents opt for a full time Nursery due to work commitments. Attendance at our nursery therefore never guarantees a place in our Reception. Whenever we use our oversubscription criteria the process is witnessed by an independent person who is not an employee or a Governor at the school. A paid Local Authority clerk takes minutes. Legal requirements are followed strictly. We do not have any discretion to stray from the oversubscription criteria set out in our published Admissions Policy.

Personnel Committee

As a Voluntary Aided Church School, the Governors are the employers of every member of staff. We are responsible for appointing and performance management and pay of all staff, including our Headteacher. During this year members of our leadership team have found promotion elsewhere. The Committee has ensured that we have recruited internally and externally for the continuing improvement of the school under Mr Coldwell's excellent leadership. We will all welcome the new Leaders in September.

Curriculum Committee

Curriculum Committee meetings are held once a term. In them, we discuss teaching, learning and progress at St Joseph's. Each subject is reviewed biannually. This entails the subject leaders submitting data, plans and policies to us before the meeting and then presenting a report and answering questions at the meeting itself. We also have the opportunity to hear from pupils about their learning and to see work they are proud of. This year, we have reviewed History, Geography, PE, PSHE, Art, Music and Design and Technology. It is a real privilege to see how well the subjects are prepared, taught and assessed, and, particularly, to hear from our enthusiastic and well-motivated pupils.

Promotions & Publicity Committee

The Committee has taken on the responsibility of auditing the school website. There are now checklists with legal requirements for all schools to comply with which are onerous. We have worked on the School Prospectus so that this is a document that will work well on the website. In addition, we have tried to ensure that we have articles in every edition of the Parish Church magazine which is available at all 3 Parish Churches.

Equality Duty Committee

During this year research has been conducted into a more structured programme for PSHE and a programme called SCARF is being trialled in the school. The school newsletter will continue to be used to communicate with parents. Thank you to those parents who completed the questionnaire. The responses were highly favourable in the main but comments made will be taken into consideration, including those about uniform options, when drawing up the next 4 year plan. Every effort will be made to ensure that equality and accessibility are highlighted in the plans for the new school building.