

## **St. JOSEPH'S GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

Thank you to every member of staff at St. Joseph's who have helped to make this another very successful year for the children. We have had an Ofsted RE Inspection and we were found to be Outstanding again. Our detailed work is carried out in our Sub-Committees and by Governors with specific responsibilities. We also meet as a Full Governing Body twice per term to make decisions as a corporate group. The year ahead should be exciting with the new school building work starting.

### ***New School Building Group***

*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. We were granted planning permission on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and we hope that works will start by October and the new School will be operational from December 2020. We look forward to seeing the plans come to life!*

### **Premises, Finance, Health & Safety and Critical Incident Committee**

The committee has continued to work with both School Business Manager, Mrs McManus and Mr Coldwell in order to maintain a balanced budget during these challenging times. Although we are currently in a financially stable position, for the first time we are predicting a deficit budget at the end of the next financial year, which is clearly, cause for concern and there are challenges that lie ahead. This situation is becoming common in other schools throughout the country but as a committee we will do our very best to ensure we efficiently manage and control the resources we have available without compromising our education standards. We are fully committed to ensuring the necessary resources to deliver an outstanding education for our young people. We benchmark our expenditure against other schools of a similar size and it is reassuring to know that our key costs relating to staffing and learning resources are either at a similar or greater value for money. A number of policies have been subject to review throughout the year, ensuring that all guidance is current, up-to-date and requirements complied with. Our particular focus is to ensure that our pupils are happy, learning and safe in school.

### ***Curriculum Committee***

*Curriculum Committee meetings are held once a term. In them, we consider 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 & 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.*

### **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. Legally Nursery and Reception places have to be considered separately. 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. 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 (apart from the kitchen staff). We are responsible for the appointment, performance management and pay of all, including our Headteacher. We are also responsible for the annual review of many Policies.*

### **Promotion and Publicity Committee**

This year we have overseen the publication of some good news stories in the local press. The website is always a challenge to keep up to date with the many changes taking place but is full of useful information and has some lovely photos of the work the children have done on the class pages. Keep an eye on the website next year as we are hoping to have a dedicated section to the new build.

### ***Equality Duty Committee***

*Following the parent questionnaire about uniform, the Committee took the expressed views on board and girls now have the option of wearing school trousers. A programme called SCARF has been implemented across the school and both Crucial Crew and the Life Bus have given pupils the opportunity to examine difference and our beliefs in tolerance and acceptance. Every effort is being made to ensure that equality and accessibility are highlighted in the plans for the new school building.*