

## **St. JOSEPH'S GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

We would like to thank all the staff who have worked so hard during this very difficult year. The staff have kept working to provide the children at home with work to do whilst also teaching those in school. The information that we have is that our school has provided more support and online teacher learning than other schools. With this hard work from staff and parents, the children have progressed.

### **St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust**

The Governors are now committed to being part of the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust as we look to secure the future of Catholic education in the Lea Valley for future generations. There is lots of administration work to be done with a view to convert, hopefully, on 1st September 2021.

### **New School Building Group**

*We were delighted that the new school building was ready to be occupied in January. The mammoth task of moving had to take place over the Christmas holidays and again we have to thank the staff for their extra work in doing this and preparing the beautiful new classrooms for some of the children's return. When all of the children were allowed back, the groundworks were ongoing and so there was very little outdoor space. The children coped remarkably well and now they have a large new playground and there is a carpark with 5 electric charger points and space to turn in.*

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

Each year the finance committee scrutinises and ultimately approves the school budget which is closely monitored throughout the year. The finance committee has the responsibility to support and challenge the headteacher ensuring that resources are deployed appropriately in line with the school's priorities, planned levels of financial performance are achieved and the school avoids financial loss and unnecessary waste. This year we have continued to focus on how we might increase the school income through renegotiating revenue generating activities, utilising government grants and identifying opportunities to reduce expenditure without affecting operational delivery. There can be no denying that it has been much harder to deliver in line with the proposed budget faced with Covid 19; however, I am pleased to say external funding streams have resumed. The financial position of the school remains positive and on track to deliver against the 3-year plan.

### **Curriculum Committee**

*Curriculum Committee Meetings are held every term, these have taken place remotely this academic year. In these meetings, the Governors consider teaching, learning and progress at St Joseph's. Each teaching area is reviewed biannually. This entails the subject leaders submitting data, plans and policies prior to the meeting and then presenting a report and answering questions at the meeting. This year, we have reviewed Science, Design and Technology and Computing, History, Geography, PE, Music, Art and Design, PSHE, French and Maths. New subject teams were formed in the last academic year, and this has positively impacted the focus of our reviews. It is a real privilege to see how well school leaders are preparing, teaching and assessing the subjects and we are very much looking forward to being able to hear from our enthusiastic and well-motivated pupils again next year!*

### **Admissions Committee**

The Committee reviews the School's Admission Policies considering Diocese and Local Authority requirements. Whenever we use our oversubscription criteria the process is witnessed by an independent person with no connection to 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 Policies.

### **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**

The committee worked hard during these unusual and challenging times. We are looking forward to the next year and are planning ways to celebrate the completion of the New School Building.

### **Equality Duty Committee**

*The Committee reviews equality and accessibility annually and draws up a 4 year plan after consultation. This has just been completed and we are preparing the Equality Duty and Accessibility Plan 2021-2025. The new school building provides good accessibility with a lift and accessible toilets*

*and disabled parking spaces. Quiet areas are being established outside and a sensory area inside for children who need this. We also plan to re-establish the Forest School to use our great outdoor spaces. After consultation we will be implementing the new Relationship and Sex Education Policy next term.*