

## St Joseph's Governors Annual Report Summer 2024

It has been a very busy year and we would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication in continuing to provide quality education for our children. We are sorry to be saying goodbye to our Head teacher Mr Coldwell but wish him all the best for a happy and healthy retirement. We are equally delighted to have appointed Ann Cassidy Jones as Interim Headteacher and look forward to working together to ensure continuing pupil progress. Our new website will be an exciting development where we can promote our pride in all the achievements our pupils make at St Joseph's. Thank you to all our parents for working with us over this year and all the efforts you make on behalf of the children.

### St Francis of Assisi Trust

We continue to work closely together with the Trust and are very grateful to them for their support particularly in the last few months when Ann Cassidy Jones was Acting Headteacher.

The Governing Body is sub divided into two Committees, the Business Committee and Education Committee. The following are their end of year reports.

### **Report on the School Education Committee**

July 2024

I am pleased to provide an update on the activities and developments seen through the School Education Committee. Our focus remains on ensuring the highest standards of education for our students.

#### **Presentations from Lead Teachers**

Over the past academic year, we have had the privilege of receiving comprehensive presentations from the lead teachers in various subjects. These presentations included a detailed report, policy overview, action plan, and the SEF. The subjects covered and the main highlights of each presentation are as follows:

##### **1. Calculations**

- **Overview:** The lead teacher discussed the calculations policy, emphasising the importance of mental arithmetic and problem-solving skills to enhance numerical proficiency.

## 2. English

- **Overview:** The English policy presentation highlighted the importance of literacy, critical analysis, and creative expression. The curriculum aims to develop proficient readers and writers who can articulate their ideas effectively.

## 3. Computing

- **Overview:** New schemes of work: To support teachers in enhancing their subject knowledge, new schemes of work are being explored. These include comprehensive lesson plans, resources, and professional development sessions designed to equip teachers with the necessary skills and confidence to deliver the computing curriculum effectively.

## 4. Physical Education (PE)

- **Overview:** Physical Education is partly delivered by specialist coaches and supported by teachers to enhance their subject knowledge and confidence. A wide range of extra curricular activities are also offered outside of the curriculum.

## 5. Science

- **Overview:** New Schemes of Work - The lead teacher is currently enquiring into different schemes in science to determine the best practices used by other schools within the Trust. This initiative aims to ensure clear progression can be seen and measured across all year levels. This includes evaluating the effectiveness of current schemes and identifying areas for improvement.

## 6. Handwriting

- **Overview:** The handwriting policy presentation emphasised the importance of legible and fluent writing as a fundamental skill for effective communication.

## 7. Spelling

- **Overview:** The spelling policy focused on the systematic teaching of spelling rules, patterns, and exceptions to enhance students' writing accuracy and confidence.

- **SEF Highlights:** Assessment of spelling proficiency and targeted interventions for improvement.

## **8. Collective Worship**

- In the collective worship report, it was noted that staff members have been working in triads to share good practice. This collaborative approach involves groups of three teachers discussing effective strategies to enhance the collective worship experience. This initiative aims to improve the quality and impact across the school by fostering a culture of continuous improvement and shared learning among staff.

## **Student Feedback**

A wide range of students across all year groups have spoken to us about the subjects reviewed. They are always very enthusiastic and happily explain the topics they have been learning. Students relish answering any further questions we may have and consistently express pride in their work. Their enthusiasm and engagement are strong indicators of the effectiveness of our educational programs and the dedication of our teaching staff.

## **Focus for Next Academic Year**

Looking ahead to the next academic year, the School Education Committee will focus on the following subjects:

- **Art**
- **Design and Technology**
- **Geography**
- **History**
- **Languages**
- **Mathematics**
- **Music**
- **PSHE Education and Citizenship**

We aim to continue our efforts in refining and enhancing our educational policies and teaching methodologies across these subjects to ensure a well-rounded and comprehensive education for all our students.

## **Conclusion**

The presentations from our lead teachers have provided invaluable insights into the current state of our educational programs and the innovative strategies being employed to enhance student learning. The inclusion of detailed reports, policies, action plans, and SEF data has given us a clear roadmap for continued success and improvement. The School Education Committee remains committed to supporting our

educators and continuously improving the quality of education at our school.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all the lead teachers for their thorough and enlightening presentations. Their dedication and expertise are essential to our ongoing success.

#### School Business Committee Report 2023/2024

The school business committee has a broad remit that includes but is not limited to finance, health and safety and publicity. The finance accounts show a strong in-year surplus outturn against a budgeted in-year deficit. Although the in-year surplus is expected to be higher than the budget, the 3 year position is not as strong due to falling pupil rolls in reception and nursery which will have a detrimental impact on future income due to the funding being directly linked to pupil numbers. As a result of this forecasted fall in income, the committee and Headteacher supported by the Trust, have formulated a long term plan, whilst also looking into short term savings across the school, to improve the future financial position. Due to current pressures in this sector, a dedicated finance lead will be sought to support the Headteacher. The committee undertook a detailed review of the school's existing letting contracts to support the current financial position and is negotiating with long standing partners to secure new contracts. A focus on the school's promotion and publicity has seen the launch of our Instagram page and further plans will see a new website for the school being launched in the coming months. Throughout the year several Trust policies have been renewed and/or adopted by the school. This ensures that guidance is current and statutory requirements are complied with. A focus on risk assessments relating to operating around the school building highlighted concerns about the car park. A decision was made to restrict access during key times and the installation of extra fencing to separate the car park from the pedestrian areas to ensure a safe environment for all.

The Committee continues to support the Headteacher and the senior leadership team but like so many schools across the country we are having to make difficult decisions.

Wishing you all a happy and safe summer holiday

Veronica Taylor ( Chair of Governors)