

## St. JOSEPH'S GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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 continue to take steps to pursue our 5 to 10 year plan to re-build the school and make it a 2 form entry school. This would provide an additional 15 spaces per year which we could fill now if we had the space. The Diocese of Westminster supports us in this endeavour but money is the problem as usual. As we informed you previously, we put in a bid for funding under PSBP2. There was an independent survey of the school building but we have not been told if we are going to be offered funds to repair the building or a complete rebuild. There is going to be a structural survey in the autumn term and a decision is to be made following that. We will keep you informed. Our detailed work is carried out in our Sub-Committees and by our individual Governors with specific responsibilities. We meet as a Full Governing Body twice per term to make decisions as a corporate group.

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

The new 3 year Budget has been agreed and presented to Herts County Council after recent detailed review meetings and, throughout the year, control of costs, contracts and insurances to maintain best audited value for the school. The school has realised early benefits from the new classroom and efficiencies from the new boiler and window walling, projects which have been completed in the past year. As always, the committee looks toward the future in terms of improving the school's assets, including buildings, resources and technology, by pursuing opportunities as they arise within the controls of safety and value for money.

There is a continuous review of all issues to provide a safe school. It is the committee's role to be in contact with any external parties on issues which could potentially impact on safety, including road safety. In addition, the committee tries to reduce carbon emissions by a variety of projects including energy conservation, collections of materials for re-cycling and reduction in the use of vehicular transport to and from school e.g. Walk to School projects.

### Admissions Committee

*The Committee reviews the School's Admission Policies in light of Diocese and Local Authority requirements. We administer the School's admissions criteria for applications for Nursery and for Reception. There are 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. Minutes are taken by a paid Local Authority clerk. Legal requirements are followed strictly. We do not have any discretion to stray from the oversubscription criteria.*

### 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 our Deputy and all 3 of our Key Stage Leaders have found promotions. The Committee has ensured that we have recruited internally and externally for the continuing improvement of the school under Mr Coldwell's excellent leadership.

### Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee's main role is to review, challenge and support teaching and learning at St Joseph's school. Over the course of a two year cycle, we review all subjects and the Special Educational Needs Disability (SEND) provision. We also review school policies such as Assessment and Children Looked After. To carry out a subject review, we examine the policy, results, development plan, reports on work sampling, differentiation, training and resources prior to the meeting when we question the subject leader about their work and report. We also speak to children about each subject. This last part of the process is particularly rewarding; it is always a joy to speak to our polite and confident pupils about their learning. The subjects we have reviewed this year are Maths, RE, English, Languages, SEN, Science and Computing and we have heard from a range of pupils from Years 1-6, all of whom spoke with pride and enthusiasm when discussing their work.

### Promotions & Publicity Committee

*The Committee has overseen the completion and launch of the new website. Thank you to all who helped during the development of the site. We have also had a number of 'good news' items in the local press and in the St. Joseph's Church magazine and we hope to continue with this in the new school year.*

### Equality Duty Committee

The Committee has the responsibility to annually review the Inclusion Policy as well as the Equality & Accessibility Plan. The improved classroom space has been completed and alongside this provided a resources room and additional meeting space. Higher fencing has been erected in the nursery area. All the planned changes to the website have been completed to ensure that it is dyslexia friendly and has Google translate. The school has welcomed advice, by means of visits, from an outreach worker from Amwell View Special School and a member of the Team for the visually impaired. Two members of staff have undertaken training in Makaton.