



The school governing body is composed of a group of volunteers, parents and teaching staff. It is an independent body that offers support and guidance to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). We provide a strategic view of the school. We hold the Headteacher to account by monitoring and evaluating the work of the school to raise standards and keep our children safe.

The responsibility of the management of staff and the school is that of the Headteacher. The governors meet twice a term as a full body and half-termly in sub-committees: (i) Finance (and Health and Safety), (ii) Performance and Standards and (iii) Staffing.

FINANCE

Our main focus has been to set a balanced budget for the school year ensuring that, wherever possible, we have a 3-year view of funds and that we maintain a positive financial balance over the 3 years, while at the same time ensuring that the current cohort of pupils receive the necessary funding, resources and support to enhance their learning experience.

As we are an Academy, our accounts are externally audited on an annual basis, and no significant issues have been found in this year's audit.

Termly health and safety audits have been carried out; and all issues raised have been or are scheduled to be dealt with.

The retirement of our bursar, Celia Holdstock, has meant a restructuring of our internal business management structure and the appointment of a School Business manager - Louise Green.

This year's major initiative was the introduction of the online service **Parent Pay**, which should make it easier for parents to pay for school dinners, etc. We aim to expand this service in September with payment for after school clubs and trips.

STAFFING

The committee discussed and planned the teaching staff organisation so that the best support is given to the appropriate classes and phases according to need. Teaching assistants and other support-staff planning ensures that the necessary resources are given to support the class teachers. The financial impact of the planned organisation is balanced against the need for resources. The operation of the new Phase Leader organisation was reviewed. Following Celia Holdstock's retirement, the role of School Business Management has been revised and a School Business Manager recruited. Policy updates for Staff Pay and Safeguarding were approved. School policy for maternity cover, job sharing and safer recruitment were also discussed and agreed.

Governors were involved in the recruitment of replacement teaching staff, teaching assistants and new school cleaners.

Governors considered requests for leave of absence and resignations and acted on them as required

GOVERNORS

Laurie Yearley, Chair

Sue Heap, Vice Chair and Chair-elect

Local Authority Governor

Adam Walsh, Executive Head Teacher

Vincent Foy, Local Authority Governor

Dr Susan Juned, Local Authority

Governor

Tricia Bowler, Foundation and SEND

Governor

Julie Lindsay, Foundation Governor

Andrew Deeks, Foundation Governor

Richard Chapman, Co-opted Governor

Virginia von Malachowski, Co-opted

Governor

Alison Howson, Parent Governor

Caroline Harris, Parent Governor

David Campbell-Kelly, Parent Governor

Mark Johnston, Parent Governor

Richard Hunter, Parent Governor

Sue Godson, Staff Governor

Alex Kolb, Staff Governor

Karen O'Shea, Head of School

Tina Ward, Clerk to Governors

STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE

Children and staff have continued to work hard in this academic year. For the staff, apart from the planning and delivery of focused and engaging lessons, they have been mastering new monitoring and evaluation software. Classroom observation and assessment are entered and processed in a way that enables teachers to identify that children are making expected levels of progress and attainment. This means that teaching and support to promote that progress is both focused and timely. Each individual pupil's progress is tracked as it happens across the curriculum.

Children have responded by working enthusiastically towards the aspirational targets set for them. In Maths, there has been a specific focus on learning number facts and developing reasoning and problem-solving skills. In English, the focus has been on applying spelling patterns and rules of written English as well as extending reading materials. Perhaps the most exciting work to highlight is concerned with the development of the children's ability to be independent and reflective learners. This entails encouraging pupils to choose work that is challenging, to listen to feedback, to proof-read and edit their own work and, impressively, to use peer and self-assessment to articulate how they might learn and make improvements.

This has been another year in which the school is embedding change, allowing us to build and develop with confidence.

Percentage of children making a 'Good Level of Development'	2016-17 School	2016-17 National
EYFS (Reception)	80%	67.3%

Key Stage 2 (Y6) Percentage of children reaching the expected levels of attainment	Reading Writing and Maths Combined	Reading	Writing	SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)	Mathematics
St Nicholas	64%	82%	74%	75%	65%
National	61%	71%	76%	77%	75%

SIAMS INSPECTION

This year saw the **Statutory Inspection by the Anglican and Methodist Church Schools (SIAMS)** Inspector.

The last inspection was 5 years ago in 2012, when the school achieved a grading of 'Good'. This year, the inspector commented that it was one of the most positive reports that she had ever written and graded the school '**Outstanding**'. The Christian ethos, curriculum and character of the school was the focus of her inspection. Her key comments were that the school has

- a Christian leadership and vision which is confidently lived out and promoted by all leaders, which is instrumental in the creation of a distinctively Christian school that

is inclusive, welcoming and harmonious.

- exemplary pastoral care. The nurture group and effective intervention strategies based on Christian values enable pupils to blossom and flourish with a safe and nurturing Christian community.
- Christian values, such as forgiveness and compassion, which are embedded in the excellent spiritual, moral, social and personal development of pupils.

LAURIE YEARLEY

Laurie Yearley has been our Chair of Governors since 2010 and is stepping down at the end of term after more than 24 years as a governor of the school. In that time he has worked with 5 Headteachers and hundreds of children. His dedication and commitment to the school has been second to none and under his leadership the school has achieved ratings of 'Outstanding' from both OFSTED and SIAMS. The Governing body would like to extend our sincere thanks to Laurie on behalf of the staff, parents, and children that have benefitted from his work.

Sue Heap will be taking over as Chair in the new school year.