

Governor's Statement 2021 – 2022

The Covid pandemic continued to affect the school throughout this year, although school life felt as if normality was gradually beginning to return. "Bubbles" were no longer required, much to the joy of both the children and staff. The children were now able to play together, could meet in the Hall for whole school worship and they celebrated Harvest Festival in Church again. However, by December the number of Covid cases was rising once more and the Christmas Fair had to be cancelled. There was a surge of cases at the end of January and managing staffing became very challenging.

However, by April, the school no longer needed to use Google Classroom and considered itself fortunate to have three qualified Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) who were able to take on additional responsibilities to cover for teachers and without whom the school may have had to close. The staff were also very flexible throughout the pandemic and responded exceptionally well in solving staffing problems. The teachers must be praised for their resilience and their support of pupils and some families. In July, Covid absences among children and staff were still being recorded but the school was able to cope. The Summer Fair went ahead with much success and great thanks for that are due to the PTA.

The excellent remote learning provision during Lockdown supported the good progress that the children made into and throughout this year. Teachers were able to identify any learning gaps that existed and provision was quickly made to fill them. Children needing support were targeted using money from the National Tutoring programme. Our data report indicates that our pupils are motivated to flourish and achieve their full potential, and we congratulate the pupils on their hard work which has demonstrated their perseverance and aspirations following the disruptions of Lockdown and Covid.

The school is very pleased with the progress and attainment across all year groups, in particular those sitting national tests. Year 6 children and staff worked very hard, including for a booster programme, and the children matured and flourished during the year. We are extremely happy with the KS2 SATs results this year, especially in comparison with national percentages where we are in a very good position. The Year 6 production this summer was evidence of excellent drama and music teaching and learning and was greatly enjoyed by the audiences. It illustrated the development and provision of a wide and varied curriculum. The Year 6 cohort shows happy and confident children and they fully deserved their very successful residential visit this term. They certainly enjoyed it!

The long expected SIAMS (Church) inspection took place at the beginning of March and the school was judged to be **Good** with Outstanding Features. The new SIAMS framework was in place for the first time in Sussex, and the inspector found the children's behaviour to be exemplary. During her visits, the West Sussex County advisor was also very positive about the school, resulting in Mrs MacGregor being seconded to support another WSCC school for 3.5 days a week in December, which was a real compliment to her leadership and management.

One focus of the School Development Plan (SDP) this year has been the development of the role of Subject Leaders, which governor monitoring has shown to have been very effective. Staff training has been undertaken and subject leadership is now moving forward rapidly. Further training will take place in preparation for a future

Ofsted inspection. The introduction of a new, statutory RSHE (Relationships, Sex, and Health Education) curriculum has also taken place, for which the school has been well prepared. Another focus of the SDP has been to develop and improve mental health and well-being in the school community and additional staff training has been allocated for this.

A Strategic Spending Plan is being extended to include Curriculum items as well as those relating to Premises and Finance. Repairs to the roof, work to improve safety at the pedestrian gates, widening paths, and provision of a new server are all immediate and planned requirements. The official opening of the new Outdoor Classroom was much enjoyed in the autumn and the children showed how highly they valued it.

The whole school community was devastated by the unexpected and very sad news that "Granny" had passed away at the end of the Christmas holiday. Granny volunteered at Holy Trinity school for over 18 years, working full time in school for over 10 years. She helped the staff with anything that needed to be done and she was much loved and valued by both staff and children. She is a huge loss to all.

We were also very sad when Father Michael retired and left Cuckfield in February. He was a greatly valued governor and a huge support to the school in so many ways. The children showed how much they would miss him at his farewell assembly. Other changes have come with the retirement from the school of our highly valued School Business Manager, Nathalie Hay, who excelled in her role and will also be sadly missed after so many years of dedicated work.

The decision was taken to restructure to create a new full time post of School Business and Office Manager. Our current Office Manager, Mrs Sarah Raciti has been appointed to the new post for the next academic year.

Finally, several governors are leaving the Governing Body this term and we thank them for all their hard work and commitment over the years. However, we welcome three new governors and we do hope that they will enjoy our school with its great team of staff and its wonderful children. If anyone would like to find out more about becoming a school governor, please do contact our clerk of governors via the school office or online.

We don't know what the school will face in the next year, but the real dedication of the staff under the strong leadership of our Head Teacher, supported by a committed Senior Leadership Team, gives us great confidence that the children will receive the best possible education and support for their well-being. The priority of the governors is to support the school to ensure the children are happy in a very good school, underpinned by its Christian ethos and values.

Janice Peek

Co-Chair of Governors July 2022