

St. Basils' Catholic Primary School, Widnes.

Governors' Annual Statement and Impact Report Academic Year 2019-20

Resignation of the Chair of Governors: Mrs. Christine Wilson

Mrs. Christine Wilson has resigned as Chair of Governors after leading the Governors of St. Basil's for three years. She had served on the Governors for over twenty years.

Christine wrote the following about her time on the Board.

'Thank you all for the support you have given to me in my role as Chair and also for the tremendous support you give to the school. I really enjoyed the role of Chair... I am passionate about the school and the role it plays within the community... Although I am not part of the Governing Body anymore, I will always hold St Basil's in my heart and keep up to date with its progress.

I wish you as Governors, all the staff and children all the very best for the future.'

Mrs. Sonia Robinson also resigned as Parent Governor in December 2019 after representing the interests of the parents and pupils for two years.

The Governing Board wish to express their sincere thanks and best wishes to Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Robinson for their dedication to St. Basil's pupils, staff and school community.

Compliance with various Education Acts

The Governors of St. Basil's Catholic Primary School believe they have fulfilled all their legal responsibilities under various Education Acts including Education Act 2002.c.32.

Governor's Photographs and Profiles on the School Website

Governors are hoping to have photographs and personal profiles published on the school website at the beginning of the new academic year. These will provide parents and interested individuals the opportunity to gain an insight into the diverse skills and experience which governors bring to the role.

Several of the governors work and/or live in the local community and are known to many of the parents of children at St. Basil's.

Ofsted Report Published in September 2019 describes St. Basil's as 'Good.'

Governors were delighted with the Ofsted Inspection, which took place on 11-12th September 2019 and described St. Basil's as 'good' in all five areas: quality

of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management as well as early year's provision.

A small group of governors were interviewed in depth by the lead inspector, Mr. Lenford White, and were asked probing questions about their role and contribution to the school.

Covid-19 and Impact of St. Basil's

St. Basil's closed in compliance to the Coronavirus Act 2020 (c 7. Schedule 16, pt 2. Closure of schools) to all but children of key workers on Friday 20th March 2020.

Governors have monitored the situation and are pleased to acknowledge to commitment and enthusiasm of teachers to design educational resource packs for pupils to continue their learning at home while providing continued learning opportunities to children of key-workers in the school. Educational packs and resources have been delivered to pupil's homes, by the teachers themselves, approximately every three weeks.

Mrs. Sheppard, the Senior Leadership, Teachers and Caretaking Team have put in a significant amount of planning to make the school campus 'Covid-19 Safe' for the pupil's return to school which was originally planned for 19th May 2020. Mrs. T. Cloherty and Mr. J Duffy visited the school to see for themselves the arrangements which had been put in place to facilitate a safe return for pupils and were very impressed. The decision to re-open the school on Monday 19th May was approved, after consultation with governors. However, subsequent advice from the Halton Director of Public Health on 16th May caused the decision to reopen to be postponed.

St. Basil's has continued to be open, during the pandemic, for children of key workers and it is noted that a significantly higher number of pupils have attended St. Basil's than any other primary school in Halton. During the pandemic, governors have continued to fulfil their role via the use of 'Meetings' facilities on two occasions.

The head teacher, staff and governors look forward to welcoming the return of all pupils in September 2020.

Governors Challenge and Support the Senior Leadership Team

Governors ask challenging questions of the Senior Leadership Team at the termly Governors Meetings. Senior and middle leaders acknowledge the role that governors play in monitoring their work and appreciate the challenge and support they offer.

The major concern to the governors is ensuring that our pupils' progress appropriately in their education and appreciate that for this to happen the pupils must be supported by a well led, enthusiastic, professionally competent and motivated staff all working together within a safe, supportive, happy and purposeful community and environment.

Governors appreciate too the requirements of our children's parents and carers and their need to be satisfied about the overall leadership and management of the school and how it affects safety, learning and enjoyment of their children. To achieve their objectives governors continually evaluate the role they have played within the life of the school, and publish relevant information to all interested parties.

This statement and report are part of that evaluation and publication process.

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

Governors work co-operatively with the head teacher and senior management in monitoring the School Improvement Plan and Ofsted advice about implementing further improvements at St. Basil's.

The School Improvement Plan sets aims for the forthcoming three years. The current SIP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SIP is set out with clear improvement activities, the key tasks which will be completed in order to measure outcomes. The SIP is monitored and reviewed termly, with an evaluation overview being completed and presented to governors at the Autumn Term Progress Meeting School Improvement Targets 2019-20. These include:

1. Raising Standards in Reception
2. Improve standard of writing and dexterity across whole school
3. Improve the range of teaching skills in mathematics
4. Improve reading skills throughout the school
5. Increase the number of children achieving national expected standard and above in all years
6. Ensure continuous progress across all year groups
7. Quickly identify underperformance by individuals and groups of pupils
8. Increase parental engagement.

Governor's visits

Link governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SIP and are considered a valuable opportunity for governors to be able to work closely with appropriate staff members. Examples of the impact of these visits include:

1. The Chair of Governors has weekly meetings with the Head and other meetings when required
2. Meetings held with SENCO to discuss the impact of SEND policy and practice as well as use of funds.

Data analysis

Data is made available to governors through termly progress meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions with the Mrs. Sheppard, the head teacher.

Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups, cared for children and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium.

Policies

Governors review all relevant policies on a programmed basis to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date.

Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education mandatory policy list and the Halton Local Authority recommended list.

Financial management

The Chair of Governors has been trained in School Finance management.

The impact of the governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective and continuous. The governors bring a wide variety of expertise to the school and this helps to ensure the school is moving forward.

Allocating funding:

1. For continued and improved staff and governor CPD
2. Employ extra staff and engage consultants as necessary
3. Improvements to school building

Staff recruitment

The Head teacher, Chair and Deputy Chair of Governors are trained in 'Safer Recruitment' and ensure that any appointments comply with the latest statutory guidance.

Governors are involved in the recruitment and selection of all teaching staff and use the appointment process to ensure that high quality staff, who share the school's mission statement and aims, are appointed.

Governor Meeting Attendance

Governor attendance has been at a good level, with any absences having been fully explained and accepted and approved by the governing body. Further

recruitment of governors is currently being addressed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool and other interested parties to bring the Board to capacity and include a diverse range of skills and experience. A governor skills audit has recently been carried out to enhance the skills and expertise of the governing body.

Governor Training and Courses

Several members of the Board of Governors have attended relevant courses during the last academic years. These have included the Halton Governor's Forum, Archdiocesan Governor's courses, child protection and safeguarding and the Religious Education Council of England and Wales.

Performance Related Pay and SFVS Data

1. Implementation of performance related pay policy and procedures
2. Review and update of SFVS data and matrix

Impact statement view

The governing body, the head teacher and senior management team and indeed all members of staff, are constantly striving to improve, develop the school and improve outcomes for pupils. There has been a determined whole school drive to improve standards and narrow the gap between all groups of pupils.

There has been effective allocation and imaginative use of sports funding so as to further inspire and up skill teaching staff and pupils.

A considerable amount of money has been spent enhancing the range of resources available in the playgrounds. E.g. New playground facilities have been purchased which have included a marquee, barrier and Covid-19 signage. Outdoor facilities continue to be developed.

The Governors of St. Basil's Catholic Primary School would like acknowledge the unprecedented challenges which have faced the school community in recent months. We wish all the pupils, teachers and staff an enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to the new academic year in September.

James J. Duffy
Foundation Governor