

The Mortimer Federation of St John's and St Mary's
Governing Board Review of our work 2019-20

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- The Governing Board is a group of volunteers which includes parents, school staff and representatives from the local community and the church. We have met as a full group six times this year with the four sub-committees meeting five times to review and discuss the various aspects of the school, the children's progress and the school budget. Three of the Full Governing Board meetings were held on-line due to the Coronavirus outbreak.
- It had been a busy year until March with plays, concerts, church festivals and various school trips. Unfortunately the Coronavirus lockdown prevented any of the usual activities from March.
- A number of Governors and Staff have left us during the year, and we will miss them for the amazing contribution they have made to the school, but we wish them well, and are pleased to welcome new recruits who are the future of the school.
- The Parents had done an amazing job up to March arranging a variety of imaginative events and raising money to help the school. The money is spent on supporting school trips and resources that directly benefit the children. Since March parents have provided amazing aid to the school by supporting and teaching their children during the Coronavirus lockdown.

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The Role of the Governing Board

- Governing boards are the strategic decision makers and vision setters in every school. They play a vital role in ensuring the best possible education for every child by creating robust accountability for school leaders. Crucially that means using and being familiar with objective data on the performance of pupils, teachers and finances, to ask the right questions and ensure resources are allocated to school priorities. We are responsible for the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. Governors of church schools are also responsible for overseeing and maintaining the Christian Ethos of the school.

The Three Core Strategic Functions of Governance:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring its money is well spent.

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Governance Function

Ensuring clarity of vision, by

- Setting the vision, values and objectives for the school
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- Meeting statutory duties.

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Focus and Achievements

We have:

- Met with school staff to review progress against the School Development Plan.
- Reviewed and challenged spending assumptions, ensuring sufficient funds to support the school improvement.
- Reviewed and approved all delegated school policies.
- Ensured all statutory duties are met with a strong focus on Safeguarding
- Monitored the school budgets and, in March 2020, the Schools Financial Value Standard forms were submitted for scrutiny to the Local Authority to show that we have secure financial management in place
- Supported the Headteacher and her staff during the Coronavirus lockdown.

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In Conclusion

The Governors have:

- Carefully scrutinised information about progress and attainment of pupils and financial performance and endeavoured to ensure that resources are in place to support everyone to achieve their best.
- Identified that the school is financially sound, the standards of teaching and learning and pupil outcomes are very good and the school has good strategies in place to achieve the targets set out in the School Development Plan.
- Noted that Mrs Sumner and the Staff are consistently demonstrating their passion and purpose in delivering the best for all of the children. The Governors are proud to be associated with the pupils and Staff at the school.
- The Governing Board wishes to acknowledge the continued dedication and support of the federation's Staff, Parents and Carers, and finally the children of the Federation who do so much to make us very proud.

Richard Bourne – Chair of Governors

Craig Hassey – Vice Chair