



St Wilfrid's CofE Primary School

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Head: Simon Hateley

GROWING SUCCESS ROOTED IN FAITH

Governors' Report 2020/21

Dear St Wilfrid's

At the end of every school year our Governing Body reports to our school community on the progress we have made as a school over the last twelve months – and our priorities for the year ahead.

Covid19: We have had another extraordinary year where our plans have had to constantly adapt. Governors have worked very closely with the senior leaders in school to ensure that the school's Risk Assessment has remained up to date, relevant and focused on keeping everyone as safe as possible. During this last lockdown we were pleased that we managed to engage more families online with daily check-ins and work reviews. At the same time, we remained open for key worker and vulnerable children, in line with government guidance. Some of the technology skills we learnt during this time enhanced our remote learning offer and we were pleased our teachers were able to earn Microsoft Educator Accreditation. We were also delighted that Treetops was able to open again in September 2020 for pre / after school wraparound care.

School Brand: We have refreshed our school logo to give it a more modern look. Covid19 delayed the introduction of our updated PE kit but also provided the impetus to outsource uniform to an online provider which seems to be working well. Covid19 measures have meant that pupils have been wearing PE kit to school on PE days. This is a practice we will be continuing as it means less time is spent changing and more time is spent on PE - and also that PE kits are able to be washed more frequently.

Admissions: We are delighted that our numbers continue to grow. It was a pleasure to welcome 60 children into Reception last September and, despite the many restrictions, their entry into school was very successful. We have also worked hard to promote the school to the wider community through video, virtual visits and our updated website. We currently have 400 children on roll with a few spaces in Years 3,4,6 from September 2021.

Curriculum: Our curriculum at St Wilfrid's is one of our unique features. We operate a project-based approach to learning based around 'Big Questions' which broadly follows the National Curriculum. This enables a cross-curricular approach to learning to provide additional challenge in terms of both knowledge and skills. This year has seen an increased focus on outdoor learning - both in terms of our Forest School offering and our allotment - to make better use of our extensive grounds. A donation from the Friends of St Wilfrid's has meant that over last Summer we were able to bring our Forest School into our grounds and the new all-weather shelter means that the space can be much more widely used. Thank you FOSW for all that you do to support our wonderful school.

The allotments and the new orchard have been very popular with the children. We received 120 trees to plant from the Woodland Trust and these will mainly form the border to



the additional orchard we have planted. Each class planted a fruit tree and over the next few years we will steadily see this area develop. We were pleased to be awarded level 3 as part of the RHS Schools Gardening Award in June.

Staff are working hard to ensure that children are as prepared as they can be for their next school year. This last half term has seen a focus on writing (which suffered most during lockdown) and maths.

Pupils: When the children returned to school after lockdown it was a joy for staff to see their smiles. The priorities had to be reconnecting them with school life, supporting them in rebuilding 'lost' relationships and responding to their needs. Staff have been very impressed with their resilience. Nevertheless, we continue to develop our approaches to wellbeing and are working to become a Trauma Informed school: <https://www.traumainformedschools.co.uk/>

We continue to support our children with SEND needs and are using the new West Sussex SEND strategy to audit our practices and improve them further.

Staff: Our staff have continued to work incredibly hard under the most difficult of circumstances. The governors are very grateful to them for their fantastic support during this unprecedented year. As a school, despite Covid19, we have continued to make progress. Mr Hateley and the senior leaders have worked hard to develop staff leadership at all levels, including Curriculum Teams for teaching staff. Governors and all school staff have contributed to the School Development Plan for next year.

Community: The support our school receives from our parents, our churches and our wider community is fantastic and contributes to that 'special something' that makes St Wilfrid's what it is.

With the increased use of technology and the help of our parishes, we have been able to share our online worships since Christmas. Particularly popular during lockdown was the school's worship with 'Wilf' and Mr Hateley where they explored the school's Christian ethos and values and built quite a following.

Our reverse Advent calendar and Easter Basket food collection resulted in a fantastic response and through the incredible generosity of our school community we were able to donate thousands of essential food items to the Haywards Heath Foodbanks for local families in need.

Premises Development: Our 1950s building continues to keep us busy! Covid has, however, made us particularly grateful for our generously proportioned classrooms which have made social distancing a little easier. Work on updating the electrics continues, although the most noticeable improvement is the refurbishment of the main hall floor which is restored to its former glory now that it has been sanded, varnished and re-sealed. Governors continue to consider ways in which we can improve parking and accessibility.

Governance: I am extremely grateful to our clerk and the Governing Body for all the work that they do to provide strategic leadership and accountability in the school. Governors are all volunteers who subject themselves to considerable scrutiny and give generously of their time to ensure that there is oversight and challenge. Our Governing Body is recognised for its strength and wide range of skills. This year has been particularly demanding with a

particular focus on Risk Assessment and Safeguarding. Despite having to work remotely, governors have continued to monitor, challenge, and support the school to ensure that the children have the best experience they possibly can.

Looking Forward: We are hopeful that next year will allow us greater opportunities for collaborative working with more visitors to our school and more visits to other schools. We look forward to welcoming staff and students from Hurstpierpoint College to support French teaching for our Years 5 and 6 to ensure that they are well prepared for modern foreign languages when they move to secondary school. We are excited about our new Pupil Parliament which will replace our School Council and will also tie in with our focus on verbal communication skills. We will also be further developing facilities in Early Years with a climbing frame to support gross motor skills and will be using improved technology to communicate in a more targeted way with EYFS parents. Across the school we will be using the Global Neighbours framework to respond to our 2019 SIAMS Church Inspection. This is in addition to the focus on our everyday curriculum; it's going to be another busy year!

Governors aim to be as approachable as possible. Once we can be back at school events, we can be spotted by our governor lanyard and badge –please do come and say hello. There's also our governor email on the school website (under Governors), should anyone wish to get it touch that way.

As we head into the summer holidays, on behalf of the Governing Body, may I thank our wonderful St Wilfrid's community for the way we work together to support our children and our school. We wish everyone a happy and healthy summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

With best wishes
Jill Garraway
Chair of Governors