



St Wilfrid's CofE Primary School
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**GROWING SUCCESS
ROOTED IN FAITH**

Governors' Report 2019/20

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.

Covid-19: First of all, I would like to pay tribute to our whole St Wilfrid's community for the tremendous support and team effort that has gone into making the best of a very difficult situation, with us all having to adapt to a 'new normal,' and the school having to respond to enormous amounts of guidance with very little notice. Thank you for bearing with us and supporting the children's learning at home so well. For those parents of children who couldn't always remain at home, we are pleased that we were able to remain open, especially over the Easter holidays. In June it was wonderful to have so many children in EYFS, Years 1 and 6 back, alongside a growing number of key worker children. I am sure you will join me in thanking the staff, and particularly Mr Hateley and Ms Strange, for leading our response in such a calm and measured way. Mr Hateley's online assemblies and Wilf's help will be remembered for a long time!

Although changes to our normal practice of teaching and learning were suddenly imposed on the school, there are aspects of this new way of working that we will look to retain. Governors are extremely grateful to our School Business Manager who brought forward plans to improve our **use of technology** to support learning and management efficiencies. We were also pleased to launch the school's **Twitter** account to share some of our news with our wider community.

Tree Tops Wrap-around care: We are grateful for our close working relationship with Tree Tops who, until lockdown, had an average of 40 children before school and 40 children after school. We look forward to working together to provide wraparound care again in September and we hope the holiday club they are running is successful.

Despite Covid-19 being top of our agenda from March onwards, there is still a fantastic amount of progress in other areas to report.

Ethos, Vision and Values: We had our Church Inspection in October which is based around a new and demanding inspection framework. We were very pleased with the report, which is on the school website, and our 'Good' result. In November governors attended the parent consultation evenings and offered parents/carers the opportunity to fill in a questionnaire about our school ethos, vision and values. The response and engagement were excellent - and an incredible testament to our fantastic school community. Of those who took part:

- 94% value the Christian ethos of the school (4% not sure)
- Parents value the broad/whole child approach we offer
- Parents value our school/Christian community



- Our Values are not only being lived out at school, but also in many families at home.

One thing we did take from both our Church Inspection and the ethos survey was that our vision needed to be communicated more simply. Our full vision remains, but is now supported by our short vision which is distilled into something that everyone can remember:

Together we will be our best.



Our school ethos continues to be summarised as: Growing Success, Rooted in faith.

Admissions: During the Autumn term governors consulted on updating our Over Subscription Admissions Criteria to better reflect our local community. We were grateful for the support we received and there was not a single comment against the proposal. We were also pleased to welcome a record number of prospective parents to our open events and were pleased with the resulting number of applications to the school. As a testament to our recent progress, there is currently a waiting list for places in Reception - although places in Years 1 and 2 remain.

Curriculum: The new OFSTED inspection framework, with its focus on curriculum, provided the school with the impetus to rethink how it could deliver the curriculum in a more integrated way to raise attainment for all pupils and to make better use of the fantastic grounds within our six acre site. During this year we have moved to project-based learning, which still covers all aspects of the National Curriculum, but is based around the following core skills:

- Basic skills
- Active Learning
- Creative Thinking

Our early results are promising, but Covid19 has delayed some progress on this. Do look at our website for further information about our updated curriculum. This will remain a focus for next year.

Pupils: During this extraordinary year, before the lockdown took place, our pupils across the school have visited a variety of settings. From visits to Tilgate Park by Year 1 to a trip to the Science Museum by Year 6, a Year 2 trip to Bodiam castle and Year 5 Residential Visit to Lodge Hill. In addition, we have had many visitors in school to support the children's learning journeys: from a robot city author to an architect; from the Mid Sussex Recycling team to the RNLI; from the Space dome to a Stone Age Man!

The challenge of lockdown provided us with the opportunity to use the school website to communicate home learning tasks and support. Combined with communication from the staff team, the website has been a valuable tool in our families staying connected. As we move forward, the increased use of Microsoft Teams for the children in KS2 will support home learning alongside the school website. In addition, it has been lovely to see the children's work celebrated on the class pages and in the celebration assemblies.

Staff: Governors are extremely grateful to our staff who have worked together brilliantly to adapt to ever changing circumstances and who have gone way beyond the call of duty to ensure that the school could remain open for key worker children in a safe manner, whilst also supporting home learning and the day to day management of the school. Staffing remains stable and we were pleased to have a truly overwhelming response to our recent KS2 job advert.

Premises Developments: Once again governors would like to applaud the wonderful Friends of St Wilfrid's (FOSW), run by parents, for the benefit of our children and our school. We thank all of you for your commitment of voluntary time. This year FOSW very kindly donated £10K to the school which is mainly being used to bring Forest School within the school grounds. This work is almost complete, and we hope that by September the new all-weather shelter will be in place to support Forest School, as well as other outdoor learning. The new whiteboards for use in class and outside which have been so helpful recently were also paid for by FOSW. Please do continue to support their events and their work.

Other premises developments to report are:

- Fitting of energy efficient lighting around the school
- Refitting KS2 boys' toilets and creating additional cupboard space

Our thanks go to our Premises Manager, for his oversight of our school and the grounds which are in significantly better shape than they were before he arrived two years ago.

Community: Normally, in the summer term, the school holds a wonderful Thank You tea party and celebration for all our volunteers /parent helpers. Sadly, that was not to be this year. Nevertheless, I know how grateful the school is to all the volunteers who make such a difference to children's learning experiences – and sometimes their life chances. I know that staff look forward to being able to welcome you all back into school.

We are very lucky as a school to have the support of three parish churches. A big thank you to Fr Ray, Fr Chris and Revd Martin for their ongoing support with worship and to all from our parishes and the wider Christian community who have contributed in so many ways. We are particularly grateful to The Ascension for leading work to restore the multisensory peace garden in the school grounds. St Richard's has taken the lead in supporting young carers and Fr Chris has also, with the help of Rich (a friend of Wilf the elephant!), taken online assemblies to a new level. Nic Robinson, Musical Director of St Wilfrid's, has been training the Y5 choir who supported worship at St Wilfrid's celebrations in October and is looking forward to supporting further musical development.

All our parishes promote the local Sussex charity Family Support Work and, strange though it may seem, the school's support with collecting milk bottle tops has a significant impact on two other local charities: the Mid Sussex Riding for the Disabled group and the League of Friends at

Hurstwood Park. Thank you for your help with this and please keep saving up those milk bottle tops!

Governance: Being a school governor always takes time and commitment; I am particularly grateful to our excellent clerk and dedicated governors who have committed their time to support our school during these unprecedented times. Before lockdown, governors continued to attend parent / school events, as well as meeting staff to monitor compliance, and progress of the school development plan. Once in lockdown, we mastered Microsoft Teams and have continued to meet virtually, re-prioritising and refocusing our monitoring to support the school remotely. This support is also, I believe, a contributory factor to the school's rapid and ongoing progress. Particular thanks go to our outgoing parent governor, Jon Walters for his insight and support. This means, however, that a parent vacancy will be advertised in the new school year. Further information about governance and our individual responsibilities is on the school website.

Looking forward: For the new school year, we will continue to respond to Covid19 and necessary changes to working practices to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can. Linked to this we will also be developing our approaches to wellbeing. We are pleased with the changes we have introduced to our school curriculum this year and we will continue to develop it to make better use of our extensive grounds and broaden the learning experiences of our children.

Governors aim to be as approachable as possible. We wear name badges at events and welcome conversations about the school. There is also the governor email (under Governors) on the school website, should anyone wish to get in touch that way.

As we head into the summer holidays, on behalf of the Governing Body, may I wish everyone in our school community a happy and healthy summer. Last, but not least, may I congratulate Year 6s on their fabulous production and wish them all the very best for their time at secondary school and for the future.

With best wishes

Jill Garraway

Chair of Governors