

## Foreword from the Chair of Governors

I hope that this report will give parents and carers an insight into the work of the Governing Body at St Mary's and reflect some of the things which make our school such a remarkable and inspirational place for the children. Further information about the school, its staff and governors can be found on the school website at [st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](http://st-marys.richmond.sch.uk). Our vision for the school is as a centre of excellence locally and nationally, a beacon catering for the needs of all children and celebrating their diversity. We want all 630 pupils, spread over 3 sites, to thrive in a small school familiarity whilst belonging to one cohesive school with shared Christian values and a common identity, and we see St Mary's as the beating heart of the Twickenham community.

It has without doubt been a year of change and challenge for education, and I want to thank our Headteacher Mrs Abrahams for her skilful leadership since arriving at St Mary's last September. It seems just impossible that she has been with us for such a short time when I look back at all the great progress the school has made this year. She was working hard on the finances in particular even before joining us, and her energy and drive have ensured that every avenue is being thoroughly explored to maximise funding and minimise waste. Mrs Abrahams and the new leadership team are inspiring teachers to take the school to new heights across the curriculum and at all ages and stages. In particular, the number of trips which every child goes on over the year is phenomenal and a testament to the kind of educational experiences which can make the biggest difference to children's lives. None of this happens, of course, without the hard work of our dedicated staff, which is leading to considerable success, from an already high base, in and beyond the classroom.

St Mary's is a much loved school as well as being a very successful school, and evokes great loyalty in the hearts of local residents, who appreciate its caring Christian ethos as well as its outstanding standards. We are fortunate to have the support of a fantastic parent body and governors would like to add their thanks to FOSM for all their wonderful support over the course of this year. Many thanks to all of you who have freely given of their time in support of the many events and activities, supported trips, helped with reading, advised on fund raising, and so on. Thank you too to those who have contributed this year to FOSM or the St Mary's Fund. Ipsos Mori data showed that the relative importance of education in this year's general election appeared to be the lowest nationally since the 1987 election (for those who are interested a helpful graphic is [here](#)), yet here in Twickenham that is clearly far from the case, and all of us at St Mary's will continue to do all we can to impress upon decision makers here and in Parliament the importance of fair funding of all schools including our own.

I would like to thank all governors, and especially our Clerk Kate Nepstad, for their tireless work and commitment to St Mary's. In September we welcomed Eloise Leeson as a new foundation governor, succeeding Jonathan Jones, who has served as a St Mary's governor, including a stint as vice chair, for the last eight years. He remains on the Board as an Associate Member, alongside Rhys Williams who joined this year in his capacity as Deputy Head. This year the Governing Body adopted a new committee structure in order to better carry out its core functions, and you can read about their work in the pages which follow. The school has been in a transitional phase, with considerable change in leadership and management. Improvements are prioritised in a detailed development plan, with financial challenges to overcome in partnership with the local authority; we are working hard with Achieving for Children and others to secure a strong footing for the school's long term future. There has been a particular focus this year on writing throughout the school, and a continued evolution of the new assessment framework, especially moderation of pupil work; we are supporting development for senior and middle leaders and looking for greater links with other schools, the local authority and LDBS; we have two newly built new classrooms on the junior site, one to support the expansion to three forms of entry, and the other to accommodate the extra reception class accepted in 2014. In addition to all the regular GB committee meetings, governors regularly visit the school, and I and vice chair Ieke Hilmy meet with the Headteacher on a regular basis in order to support her work and be kept abreast of important matters such as safeguarding.

The school has just received unvalidated KS2 results for our Y6 pupils, putting them way above national standards on every available measure, including writing; with the KS1 and Early Years results they indicate terrific progress across the board. Once confirmed, the full results will be published as usual on the school website. I heartily congratulate all the pupils and their teachers for doing so well, and wish all staff, pupils and parents a restful summer holiday.

Ben Driver  
Chair of Governors  
July 2017

## Who are the school governors?

Headteacher	Angela Abrahams	
Parish Priest, St Mary the Virgin, Twickenham	The Revd Jeff Hopkin Williams	
Parent Governors (elected by school parents)	Ben Driver – Chair of Governors Richard Goatley	
Foundation Governors (elected by St Mary’s Trustees or PCC)	Hugo Clark Katherine Cox Ieke Hilmy – Vice Chair	Eloise Leeson Robin Shute Neil Stirling-Jones
Foundation Governor (appointed by London Diocesan Board for Schools - LDBS)	Alexandra Hazard	
Co-opted Governor (appointed by governing body)	Christina Sturge	
Staff Governor (elected by school staff)	Ruth Knight	
LA Governor (appointed by the Local Authority)	Anneliese Jacklin	
Associate Members (non-governor)	Rhys Williams, The Revd Dr Piotr Ashwin Siejkowski Jonathan Jones	

## What do the governors do?

Behind the scenes at St Mary’s, the governing body has been hard at work all year. Here is a brief snapshot of what they have been up to:

<p><b>Full Governing Body</b></p> <p><i>Members: All governors and associate members</i></p> <p>The school governors attend four evening meetings each year as a ‘full governing body’ and the agenda is always packed with important items for discussion, policies for approval and other business. You can read the minutes of the last meeting of the full governing body on the school <a href="#">website</a>. One of the main roles of the GB is to set and champion a clear vision for the school’s future. The appointment of a new headteacher has given a great boost to this strategic priority and the governors have been working closely with Angela Abrahams and her team to secure long term financial stability for St Mary’s as a three site, part PFI-managed primary school.</p>
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All St Mary’s governors are committed to developing their governance of the school and in Autumn 2017 we will have an external review, led by an expert from the London Diocesan Board for Schools, in order to identify existing strengths and areas for further improvement. Much of the work of the governors takes place at committee level:

<p><b>Admissions Committee</b></p> <p><i>Members: Hugo Clark (Chair), Jeff Hopkin Williams, Alex Hazard, Neil Stirling-Jones</i></p> <p>Each year the Admissions committee considers the applications for admission into Reception. There are many more applications than available places: for Reception 2017, the school received a total of 328 applications for the 90 places available. Applications are assessed against the published admissions criteria (see the Admissions Policy on the school website). This year, initial offers were issued to 48 children who have a sibling in the school, a further 13 children accepted offers of a Foundation place and 29 children received an offer on distance. According to the data calculations provided by the Council, the child receiving the ‘furthest’ offer lives only c.916 metres away from the Infant site gate. No appeals have been made against the admissions decisions this year. The committee would like to thank Emily Price (Administrative Officer) for her efficient processing of the admissions data – a huge job!</p>
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<p><b>Curriculum and Standards Committee</b></p> <p><i>Members: Ieke Hilmy (Chair), Christina Sturge, Ben Driver, Angela Abrahams, Richard Goatley, Ruth Knight, Eloise Leeson, Jeff Hopkin Williams, Rhys Williams.</i></p>
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The Curriculum and Standards committee monitors and evaluates pupil achievement and the quality of teaching, ensuring the school provides a high quality learning experience and delivers a broad and balance curriculum in keeping with the school's aims, all pupil needs and legal requirements. At every meeting, the committee scrutinise data on the progress that children make in different subjects and year groups. They also monitor progress on the School Development Plan (SDP). Within the SDP there are 2 items which fall under this committee: standards in the curriculum and the embedding of the new method of assessment. On both of these the school has worked very hard this year, with real, significant and measurable success. Two governor members of the committee visited the school for learning walks this year, with a focus on writing. Within the committee, we have governors who have specific responsibilities: Pupil Premium (Jeff Hopkin Williams), SEN (Christina Sturge), Able and Talented (Eloise Leeson) and PE (Richard Goatley). They are the 'go to' governors for these subjects. The governors would like to thank Rhys Williams (Deputy Headteacher) for providing the essential educational data for this committee.

### **Ethos Committee**

*Members: Jeff Hopkin Williams (Chair) Hugo Clark, Katherine Cox, Ieke Hilmy, Robin Shute, Piotr Ashwin Siejkowski*

The Ethos Committee comprises both governors and teaching staff. Its role is to provide a context in which the Chaplain can talk through their work and make suggestions as to how the Christian Ethos can be enhanced and extended. Through termly meetings and regular visits to the school, governors can effectively document and monitor the promotion of the Christian Ethos at the School, including on the website. Over the past year the committee has agreed the Christian Values that are a termly focus at school, overseen the implementation of a new LDBS Scheme of Work for RE lessons and followed up on the feedback the school received following our last SIAMS inspection. In addition, committee members have addressed the question as to how best to equip and resource staff to promote the ethos of Christianity at the school. The governors would like to thank staff members Rhys Williams, Caroline Freer and Jane Glenister for their contribution this year.

### **Finance & Staffing Committee**

*Members: Neil Stirling Jones (Chair), Robin Shute, Angela Abrahams, Richard Goatley, Anneliese Jacklin, Eloise Leeson, Christina Sturge, Rhys Williams, Jonathan Jones.*

Firstly, this year saw the amalgamation of two separate committees; Finance, and Pay & Staffing. We had a successful year bringing the teams together, protecting the goals of their mandates and the work, and increasing information-sharing to the benefit of the running and governance of the school. Secondly, we continued to work with the School Business Manager (SBM) and Senior Leadership Team on the budget challenges which continue - and continue at every school of course. We have helped promote more movement to online finances for parent contributions, led a piece of work on charity status and the new St Mary's Fund and continued our normal work with the SBM on financial management (our duty) for probity. We also continue our work supporting the Computing and IT needs of the School. Thirdly, the Staffing aspect of our new committee continued; we updated many policies this year to support the running of the school, worked with the HT and DHT to support their staffing strategy, and continue our performance management work with the HT and her team supporting the long-term needs of our amazing school. Overall, it has been a challenging year but the Finance & Staffing Committee continues to work pro-actively within the Governing Body to support and challenge the leadership team for the benefit of every child, parent, member of staff and the entire Christian community. The committee would like to thank Simon Minty, SBM, for all his hard work this year.

### **Safety & Community Committee**

*Members: Katherine Cox (Chair), Alex Hazard, Angela Abrahams, Hugo Clark, Ieke Hilmy, Anneliese Jacklin, Ruth Knight, Polly Devereux, Johanna van Otterdijk.*

This committee is an amalgamation of two former committees, Pupils, Parents & Community and Health & Safety. The remit of the new committee covers H&S, Safeguarding as well as community aspects. This year the committee

has agreed a revised H&S policy, which will be attached to an annual work plan and action tracker to streamline H&S monitoring. We have endorsed the school's introduction of an external online package to create efficient monitoring of Health & Safety concerns within the school. We monitor termly H&S walks and fire drills, also noting any incidents/accidents/near misses. In the spirit of maintaining a H&S culture as an all governor responsibility, all members of the committee have undertaken online Health & Safety training. A standard agenda items for this committee includes a safeguarding update, the designated Safeguarding Governor has undertaken refresher training and this committee has ensured that all governors have familiarised themselves with Keeping Children Safe in Education (Sept 2016). The Safeguarding governor has monitored the Single Central Register and has reviewed the audit carried out by the Headteacher. A member of this committee reviews and signs off the risk assessments for school trips. Developing greater links with AfC, the local school network and LDBS has been a priority for the school this year and this committee has heard very positive reports about how these are being met. We have also formed an Equality Group led by the SENCOs, including both governors and parent representatives. Governors would particularly like to thank staff member Johanna Van Otterdijk and (outgoing) FoSM Chair Polly Devereux for their contributions to meetings this year.

### School Development Plan 2016-17

1. Standards      a) EYFS      b) KS1/ Phonics      c) KS2/ Maths, Writing      d) Whole School Standards
2. Finance
3. Developing senior and middle leaders
4. Embedding the Assessment Framework
5. Developing greater links with Achieving for Children, the local school network and the LDBS



Photograph by Claire Novakovic

*Growing and learning together, inspired by Jesus' love.*