



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Regents Gate
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Exmouth
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EX8 1TA

Headteacher: Mrs N Taylor-Bashford

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September 2022

Chair of Governors – Annual Report 2021-2022 Year

The role of the Local CAST Board (LCB) is to support and promote the vision, values and principles of Plymouth CAST. We are a non-statutory body who act as a 'wisdom group' for the school to support the Catholic life and mission of the school. We have oversight for key areas: Religious Education and Catholic Life; Curriculum and Standards; Special Educational Needs and Disability, Inclusion and Equality; Safeguarding and Child Protection; Health and Safety; The Impact of Statutory Grants and Parents and the Community.

Our role and duties as a Governing Board are set out in the Plymouth CAST Scheme of Delegated Authority. Throughout the year we undertake a variety of tasks, checks and assurance activities. We use a Schedule of Accountability which sets out the tasks we need to undertake for all key areas of governance on a term by term basis.

In addition to these delegated assurance and governance tasks, during the 2021-2022 year Governors have also had an active role in the day to day life of our school.

Attached is a short summary report of the 2021-2022 school year from the perspective of the Local CAST Board (LCB).

I hope you will find this informative, and it will provide an insight to the work of the LCB.

Lynn

Lynn Cook
Chair of Governors.

St Joseph's School, Exmouth

Chair of Governors Report – 2021-2022 Year

Autumn Term 2021

At the beginning of the autumn term, we said a fond farewell to our long serving LGB member, Paul Byron. Paul served as a board member for many years and latterly as Chair. At our first meeting of the school year, I was elected as the new Chair and Nicky Dustan agreed to continue in her role as Vice Chair.

Governors were appointed to all the required lead roles (RE and Catholic Life; The Impact of Statutory Grants; Safeguarding and Child Protection; Special Educational Need and Disability, Inclusion and Equality; Health and Safety and Parents and the Community). A schedule of meetings for the coming year was also agreed.

Compulsory Safeguarding training was undertaken by all Governors.

The School Self Evaluation Form (SEF) and School Improvement Plan (SIP) was shared with Governors. Progress Milestones for the SIP were identified, which are monitored and discussed throughout the year with Mrs Taylor-Bashford.

Governors worked through their Schedule of Accountability tasks for their lead roles.

In collaboration with the PTA, Governors came into school to help with the Christmas present wrapping event. Governors also assisted teachers with the Nativity and Christmas performances.

The Governor led 'Time to Talk, programme re-commenced.

Spring 2022

Governors continued to undertake their delegated duties per the Schedule of Accountability.

In addition to governance activities, Governors supported Mrs Taylor-Bashford, parents, and the children by helping out at Breakfast and After School Clubs. Governors also accompanied children on school trips and supported the PTA at the annual Sponsored Bounce event.

The Growing in Faith Together Team (GIFT) (Pupil Chaplaincy initiative) that had to be put on hold during COVID restrictions was re-started. A 'Gifted and Talented' group was set up. Both groups are supported by Governors.

During this term two new Foundation Governors were appointed by the Bishop. The governing body currently consists of six Foundation Governors, two elected Parent Governors and one co-opted Community Governor.

We were especially happy to welcome Father Philip back into school to meet with the children and staff.

Summer 2022

SIP (School Improvement Plan) Targets set at the beginning of the school year were reviewed. Governors were satisfied that action to meet Progress Milestones was ongoing and targeted action taken when necessary.

The culture of Safeguarding in school was reviewed by Governors and found to be strong. A Safeguarding audit was also carried out by the Plymouth CAST Safeguarding Team. Governors met with the Safeguarding team to discuss all aspects of Safeguarding. The team were satisfied that Governor actions with regard to Safeguarding were in order. No Safeguarding concerns were highlighted to Governors.

The Year 6 SATs results were testament to the hard work of the children and teachers. Results were higher than the national average in all areas. A real achievement for everyone.

A Governors Sports Day Award for sportsmanship, teamwork, positive attitude and trying hard was introduced this year. The first recipients of this new annual award were Year 3.

Governors supported the children with their fundraising for Shelterbox.

The PTA Summer Fayre was a highlight of this term. Governors and parishioners worked together to run stalls at the event which raised funds for the benefit of our school.

All Governors completed a 'Self Review' form to reflect on their performance throughout the year. These reviews will enable us to reflect on our effectiveness as a Governing Board and help us to improve our approach to governance.

General comments

Throughout the year Governors hold formal meetings, usually two per term. At these meetings we report our governance activities and share experiences. Mrs Taylor-Bashford provides us with a detailed Leadership Report at each meeting. These reports cover all aspects of school life, including attendance data, safeguarding, budget updates and staffing. This is an opportunity for Governors to explore, challenge and ask appropriate questions to support our governance brief. During the year we have also received presentations from subject leads on the Maths, English and Science programmes used in school. Helping us to understand what the children are studying so we can have informed conversations with them about their learning.

Collective worship is an important aspect of school life and supports the Catholic life of the school. The whole school is involved, and services are led by the children. It is evident from visits to school that Gospel Values are integral to school life. The children are encouraged to treat everyone with kindness and respect and to make correct choices. There is a fair and understood programme of rewards and sanctions in operation.

There is an extremely strong commitment to SEND, inclusion and equality in school. This is not just from the SEND Lead but from everyone in the school community. Governors received a detailed presentation from the SEND Lead in one of the meetings.

As incoming Chair of Governors, I have been extremely impressed with the Leadership of the school. The continued challenges and restrictions of COVID have been addressed and managed effectively and with regard for the whole school community. Our school is fortunate to have a committed and inspiring Headteacher, dedicated, caring teachers and a marvellous team of learning support and ancillary staff.

Lynn Cook, Chair of Governors

September 2022