

School Vision

Christian values shine through everything we do. Everyone in our school should be happy, fulfilled and valued as an individual. Everyone in our community should thrive in a safe environment, challenged and stimulated to achieve their very best.

This is a nurturing school where everyone matters.

Governors Report – 2023/2024

This year has been one of positive external validation of all the hard work undertaken by Mari, her staff and the pupils in our wonderful school.

In October, the school finally welcomed both the OFSTED inspectors and the SIAMS inspection team. I am pleased and proud to report that the findings from both bodies were very positive and I would strongly encourage parents to read the full reports, which can be found on the school website.

These findings were complemented by our accreditation as a Nurture School, meaning that the school has now been inspected, audited and monitored by three external bodies, all of whom have found the school to be living our values to Love and to Serve and our School Vision.

“Settrington is a small school which offers a loving and warm welcome to everyone. Every member of this caring and nurturing school community is valued for who they are.” (SIAMS Report)

“Settrington All Saints Church of England Primary is a small school with a big heart. Kindness, care and happiness are evident throughout the school.” (OFSTED Report)

The Governors would like to thank the parents for their unfailing support for the school and to congratulate Mari and all the staff on the hard work and dedication that they have shown, not only throughout the inspections but at all times of the year. Our pupils are most fortunate to benefit from the experience and kindness of all those who work at the school and this includes our wonderful team of volunteers. From our Midday Lunchtime Supervisors through to the kind volunteers who regularly come into school to provide individual support and listen to children read; all those who work at the school play their own unique role in ensuring that the school continues to be a very special place of learning for all our pupils.

At the start of the year, we were delighted to welcome our new vicar, Revd. Cate Turner, to our Board. In addition to benefiting from her Christian guidance, we are particularly fortunate that her background in human resources and her experience prior to becoming a priest mean she is already proving to be a valuable addition to our team.

In May 2024, we were also very happy to welcome our second Foundation Governor, Dr Louise Hampson. As Deputy Director of The Centre for the Study of Christianity & Culture, Louise has links to both the Diocese of York and churches and cathedrals across the country. She has lived in the local community for many years and her experience includes fund-raising and public finances.

This year, we bade farewell to Karen Storey who, as a Foundation governor, had provided a link to both the local community and to the church in the absence of a vicar. Her support for the school was very much appreciated and we look forward to maintaining our links with her through the church and through the wider local community.

Our Governing Board currently consists of:

Sue Blagden – Chair, Safeguarding Governor
Helen Patterson – Vice Chair, Chair of FOCAS
Helen Smith – SEND Link Governor, Chair of Pupil Progress Committee
Cate Turner – Ex-officio Foundation Governor
Kelly Reppold – Chair of Resources Committee, Research School Link Governor
Charles Mackain-Bremner – Parent Governor, Health & Safety Link governor
Louise Hampson – Foundation Governor
Mari Palmer – Headteacher
Caryl Shepard – Staff Governor
Laura Waites – Clerk to the Governors

Strategic Plan

The governors held a successful strategy day at the start of the autumn term; however, much of the term was then taken up with the OFSTED and SIAMs inspections and we arrived at Christmas without a great deal of progress on the longer term strategic plan. The plan agreed at the strategy meeting was designed to address the future security of the school through continuing to work towards possible academisation and through researching the options available to us regarding the current lack of space.

Building on the work already achieved last year, in January, the Board established two working parties; one headed up by Kelly Reppold to progress the academisation process, the other, led by Sue Blagden, to scope out the viable options for either increasing the existing footprint of the school or alternatively considering an entirely new build.

The best education for all pupils

The governing board is responsible for holding the headteacher to account for the education of pupils and the management of staff. The hard work undertaken to fully embed the new curriculum was reflected in the conclusions outlined in the OFSTED inspection report and the governors were pleased to note that the inspectors recognised the improvements that have been made.

“Pupils experience a broad and balanced curriculum offer. The school takes care to ensure that pupils in the mixed-aged classes access learning at an age-appropriate level. In recent years, much has been done to improve the curriculum in all subjects.” (OFSTED)

However, the governors also noted that there are still areas for improvement and the recommendations made by the OFSTED inspectors will form the basis of the monitoring and support that the governing board, particularly through the Pupil Progress Committee, will seek to provide over the coming months.

Collective worship is a cornerstone of our faith and we have continued to celebrate our Christian values and demonstrate our commitment to the Christian faith regularly at school. The arrival of Rev. Cate has provided a fresh perspective on daily worship and the school is immensely grateful to

her and her husband, Iain, for their time and their commitment to the school and our pupils. Once again, we have had the privilege of celebrating the milestones of the Christian calendar within the wonderful Settrington Parish church, which highlights the solemnity and permanence of the Christian faith to the children in a demonstrable and visual way. The school is indebted to the church and its wardens for the welcome they always afford our children.

The governors have reviewed and approved all statutory policies and familiarised themselves with other school policies throughout the year. The governing body has also approved the budget and monitored expenditure against budget. We are delighted that the school will once again benefit from Research School funds and from the knowledge and expertise that this association brings.

The future

With the SIAMs and OFSTED inspections having now been successfully completed and with our new status as a Nurture School, Settrington All Saints Primary School is in a healthy place to face the future. Children continue to thrive and enjoy the benefit of a rural environment with a nurturing, happy atmosphere conducive to positive learning and a professional and supportive staff that is second to none.

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ Luke 10:27

Sue Blagden
Chair of Governors.

July 2024.