

# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Carol Scanlon  
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Daniel Getty



Friday 15 July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Governors' End of Year Review – July 2022**

As another school year draws to a close the governors of St Mary's have taken some time to reflect on the last nine months in our school and the work we have done as a governing board.

In the last few years the governing board have been occupied with: recruiting a new leadership team for our school and managing a period of change; ensuring that funds are invested appropriately to allow for the best possible environment and outcomes for our pupils; as well as supporting our staff and pupils through the challenges presented by covid.

## **External Review of Governance**

Now we have come through these changes and have an established leadership team in place, the board thought it important that we undergo an external review of governance to ensure that we are carrying out our functions effectively. We are pleased to say that the review concluded that:

"This is a hardworking and committed board of governors who are keen to ensure that they provide the very best education environment for all pupils and have demonstrated that they have the drive and capability to continue to improve their practice. It is a governing board which has introduced several new ways of working effectively which allow the board to have a good understanding of the school's current strengths, its provision, and outcomes for pupils alongside the key areas for improvement."

The review includes an action plan with areas for further development in the coming year. A copy of the full report will shortly be available for you all to view on the Governors page of the school website: [www.stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk/what-we-do](http://www.stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk/what-we-do).

~ Pray ~ Learn ~ Love ~ Enjoy ~

## **Inspections**

Once again, it has been an extremely busy time for everyone at St Mary's. As you know, the school has had two inspections this year, the Catholic Schools Inspection in October and an Ofsted inspection at the beginning of February. Governors recognise that this level of scrutiny adds to the pressures on staff and can impact on wellbeing, but as usual our brilliant staff team dealt with those pressures with professionalism and positivity, using the inspections as an opportunity to showcase our school at its best.

We were very pleased that both inspections achieved GOOD judgements confirming what governors already knew and see in school during our visits and meetings.

We would like to share with you some comments from the inspection reports which encapsulate the St Mary's ethos and culture.

In the Catholic Schools Inspection report, inspectors concluded: "all stakeholders identify a strong sense of pride in the St Mary's family and appreciate a very real sense of belonging to a community which extends beyond the confines of year group and school boundaries."

Our Ofsted inspector summarised: "Pupils know the importance of the school ethos: pray, learn, love, enjoy. It reflects their experience of school. They say that everyone is kind and helps each other. Expectations are high. Pupils strive to meet them. In classes and around school pupils behave well and work hard. They follow instructions and listen to their teachers and each other. Play times are relaxed and social occasions. Everyone gets along. Pupils are confident that staff help resolve any problems."

Everyone, from pupils, staff and governors to you the parents and carers, have played a part in this success.

## **Journeying Together – Enriching our School**

Following the inspections, our senior leadership team wasted no time in updating the school development plan to incorporate inspectors' recommendations and worked in partnership with the governors to review the vision, strategy and direction for St Mary's over the next three years.

As part of this process, we sought the views of all stakeholders, including pupils and you, the parents and carers, to ensure that our whole community is invested in the vision. We would like to thank those of you who responded to the parent survey for your helpful thoughts and suggestions, many of which have now been incorporated into the plan. Thank you also to Mrs Scanlon and Mr Getty for presenting our shared vision in journeying together and enriching our school in assembly on Thursday 14 July. The presentation will also be shared on the school website for everyone to see our plans for St Mary's in the year ahead.

## **Conclusion**

This year governors have particularly enjoyed being able to get back into school in person on a regular basis to meet with pupils and staff as part of our monitoring role. We have witnessed a school that is flourishing with happy and engaged pupils and staff. We have seen the impact of our

supportive challenge and strategic input in helping our school to move forward with confidence. As a board we are proud of what we and the entire school community have achieved.

It has also been great for the school to be able to welcome you all back into St Mary's and to start re-engaging with the community, which has been shown so nicely through events such as class-led assemblies, the colour run (organised by the fantastic Friends of St Mary's), sports day, and the Year 5 and 6 Production to name a few.

Our review is not complete without a final thank you to our amazing and dedicated staff team, led by Mrs Scanlon and Mr Getty, who have worked so hard to ensure the very best education for all the children in our school this year.

We are also looking forward to the next academic year and continuing on the enrichment journey together. Until then, we hope you all have a lovely summer holiday.

Best wishes

**The Governors of St Mary's**

