

Stratford-sub-Castle CE VC Primary School

Governors Annual Report to Parents

Monday 15th October 2019

Hello and welcome, thank you all for coming here tonight. This is the Governors Annual Report for the academic year 2018/19.

Our children continue to learn and grow within the happy, accessible and inclusive place that is our school. They are encouraged to explore “Life in all its fullness”, becoming confident individuals who look forward to come to school and eager to learn when they are here. This safe and secure place that is our school helps all our children to develop their life skills and prepares them for their futures.

School funding issues continue their impact on our budget. Staff and Governors have continued their hard work to keep the deficit as low as possible. We have carried on rolling the children’s books over, sending emails rather than hard copies of newsletters and other school information. We have kept training down to the essentials and minimised purchases. The school also continues to function without a Parent Support Adviser. At the end of the school year our deficit stood at £75,000, which is less than the predicted £85,000, a lower figure that has been achieved in part by the sacrifices in both time and resources of our amazing staff, their dedication is greatly appreciated. The school has been benchmarked against similar schools and we continue to spend less in all cost centres, than comparable schools, except one. We spend more on ‘Teaching Assistants’ than other similar schools due to our high number of pupils with complex needs on roll. The deficit budget our school has, can be directly attributed to the national Special Educational Needs funding crisis. The school has to top up funding for pupils with SEN from the delegated budget as the funding delegated for all SEN within the school does not cover the shortfall in the Named Pupil Allowances given to individual pupils.

The year started with 143 pupils on roll and we ended the school year with a small increase to 146.

The number of children with varying forms of Special Educational Need rose from 21% (30 children) to 22.6% (33 children). Children taking up their Free School Meal provision was quite constant, starting at 11 children (8%) and ending the year at 13 children (9%).

Our school attendance figures are at a good level, 97% over the year which makes our attendance rates above the national average. 18 pupils achieved 100% attendance and were awarded with an appropriate book in acknowledgement of this. Pupils and their families whose poor attendance was due to significant health reasons, have been supported during their absences and on return to school. Any pupil with a poor attendance has been encouraged and supported by phone calls, text messages, letters home, recognition for full week attendance (name in the Happy Book) and lots of individual encouragement.

Behaviour remains at a very good level. The use of Restorative Justice Strategies continue to have a positive impact helping children to sort out their differences. Indeed, the behaviour of our pupils stands out at the City Hall Christmas concert and several teachers have been congratulated by members of the public, on their class’ behaviour, whilst on school trips.

The school continues to provide a full range of enrichment activities. One only has to look at the month-by-month wall to see the breath of what is going on! Staff and volunteers are to be thanked for giving up their time in providing a great range of after school clubs. Big Art, Reading Rocks, Happy Hearts and Healthy Heads, Code, Summer and Winter Games, Move and Groove, Athletics, Super Scientists and Athletics clubs. Booster sessions were held for year six pupils in the early mornings with Miss Crook and choir during lunchtimes with Mrs Aylett.

Children in EYFS continue to make good progress, growing in confidence and increasing their “learning power” through the year. 81% of children achieved a Good Level of Development, an increase on last year and above the National figure of 72% (2018) (The GLD for 2019 has not been published yet).

Year One Phonics screening results were lower than last year at 67%. This puts the school below the national average of 82% and also represents a drop on the previous two years. The school is aware that four pupils within this cohort had significant SEND and some pupils learn whole words rather than phonetically. However, time is being taken to refresh phonics teaching so that the school continues to have positive outcomes in reading.

Year 2 phonics four children took the retest in Y2. The cumulative results read at 89.5% (17/19) achieving the expected standard for phonics in either Y1 or Y2.

Key Stage One outcomes

These figures include a pupil who has significant special needs and whilst this pupil continues to make good progress; the SATs are not an appropriate measure of this.

Reading and Maths were just above the national average, writing improved from last year and is in line with the national average.

Reading = Expected Standard 80% reported in 2019. Greater Depth 50%

Writing = Expected Standard 70% reported in 2019. Greater Depth 15%

Maths = Expected Standard 80% reported in 2019. Greater Depth 50%

The percentage of children achieving the expected standard in all three subjects is above the National average at 70% compared to the NA of 65%. Greater Depth in all three subjects was 15%. (NA 11%)

Key Stage Two outcomes

These outcomes include a pupil who could not access the tests due to SEN.

Reading (test) = 88% achieved the expected standard and 35% higher scaled scores, both up on last year. This means that the percentage of pupils reaching expected or better and attaining the higher standard in reading is above the national average.

Writing (teacher assessment) = 76% achieved the expected standard and 12% at greater depth. This means that the percentage of pupils reaching expected or better in writing was in line with the national average. (NA 78%) The percentage of pupils attaining the higher standard was below the NA of 20%.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (test) = 71% achieved the expected standard and 29% higher scaled scores these are in line with the national average. This means the percentage of pupils achieving expected or better was below the NA (78% and 34%).

Maths (test) = 71% achieved the expected standard and 24% higher scaled scores, expected slightly higher than last year, higher scaled slightly lower. This means that the percentage of pupils reaching expected or better is below the national average (79%). However the percentage of pupils achieving greater depth is exactly at the national average of 24%.

The percentage of children achieving the expected standard in all three subjects (65%) is in line with the National benchmark of 64%.

Our year six leavers went on to take up places at Sarum Academy, St Edmunds, St Josephs, Wyvern, Trafalgar, Springfields and South Wilts Grammar.

The Pupil Premium Grant Allocation was spent on a variety of interventions including Year 6 transition, Boosters and 1 to 1 tuition. You can access a detailed breakdown on the school website. A link to the Pupil Premium Strategy to the will be added to this report when it is published.

Our PE & Sport Grant of £17,230 was spent on replacing the track and associated play equipment. This has already had a positive effect with all children accessing the space and most taking part in the "Daily Mile"

We started the year with five new members of staff. Teachers Mrs Hannah Cook joined us in Fox Class and Miss Elizabeth Curzon, as Maternity Leave cover, in Owl Class. TA's Miss Paula Barnes in Woodpecker Class, Miss Jayne Ellis in Robin Class and Mrs Lisa Bell in Owl Class. We also welcomed back Miss Kat Smith, who returned to Owl Class following her maternity leave.

By the end of the year we had said goodbye to Mrs Caroline Wells, who left to take up a post working with families, Miss Elizabeth Curzon, who completed her NQT year and gained a teaching position at St Andrews and Mrs Michelle Williams who, after 20 years with the school, left teaching to do an MA in Illustration at Bournemouth University. We have valued their hard work and support and wish them all well for the future.

The Governing body numbers have stayed the same, remaining one co-opted Governor short.

FOSS have worked hard over the past year, raising more funds for our school. The Disco's, Christmas Bazaar, Friday after school ice creams, drinks and snacks on Sports Day and Nativity performances and the Summer Fayre are as popular as ever. "Bags for Schools" has replaced the Jumble sales and the new Quiz Night have proved to be great fund raisers. The amazing work that FOSS have done this year are evidenced in, among other things, our lovely new outdoor classroom. On behalf of the Governors I would like to thank every committee member and member of the FOSS for each and every contribution they have made to the enrichment of school life.

Our strong links with Stratford-sub-Castle village and the wider community continue and our relationship with the church provides us with valued support. The prayer tent made a welcome visit to the school giving our children opportunities to explore their thoughts and feelings on a number of subjects.

The successes of this school year and the continuing development of our school are due to the dedication, loyalty and sacrifices of our staff. On behalf of the Governors I would like to thank Mrs Bridson, Mrs Watkins, our staff governor Miss Crook, all our teachers, teaching assistants and support staff for their hard work. We wouldn't be here without you.

The help, support and commitment of our great school by the "Stratford Team", children, parents, carers, staff, governors and volunteers ensure we remain a wonderful, vibrant and inclusive place.

Are there any questions?

Angela Britten (Chair of Governors)