



Stratford-sub-Castle Church of England VC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Justine Watkins BEd (Hons)



*Life in all its fullness*

head@stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk  
admin@stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk  
finance@stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk  
www.stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk

Salisbury  
Wilts  
SP1 3LL

☎ 01722 327 227

## Governing Board Annual Report 2024

### Introduction

*Welcome to our April 2024 Governing Board report for Stratford-sub-Castle C of E VC Primary School.*

*I am delighted to present this report on behalf of the Governors, as it allows us to reflect on a challenging but ultimately successful period of change for the school; from Mrs Watkins appointment as Headteacher in May 2023 to the publication of our recent Ofsted inspection.*

*The 'Good' outcome of the Ofsted inspection is a wonderful achievement for everyone but the succinct nature of an Ofsted report does not do justice to the amount of work that has been put in by Mrs Watkins, Miss Crook and the whole school staff during this period, and so we are delighted to be able to use our report to expand on the journey the school has been on.*

*The Governing Board has also undergone some significant changes during this time and I would like to thank all my fellow Governors, and those who have stepped down during the past year, for all their time and effort to support the school.*

*If you would like to know more about the Governing Board and our role, there is more information on the school website. We are always grateful for input and feedback from parents, staff, the local community and of course our children.*

*Andy Mintram  
Chair of Governors*

### The Role of the Governing Board

The Governing Board exists to make sure that the school runs effectively. It is a strategic role, and the Governing Board performance manages the Headteacher who runs the school on a day-to-day basis.

The core functions of the Governing Board are:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

## Meet the Governing Board

The structure of the Governing Board changed during 2023, and the full details of this are contained within the Instrument of Government, published on the school website, with the key changes summarised below.

We hold regular Full Governing Board (FGB) meetings throughout the school year and no longer have separate committees. As a small Governing Board this is more time efficient, ensures regular attendance and has improved communication between the school and governors across all areas for which we are responsible.

In October 2023 the previous Chair of Governors, Angi Britten stepped down from her role and Andy Mintram was voted in as the new Chair. Angi continues to serve as a Local Authority Governor. Since then, the Board have expanded further with the addition of three new Governors. Emma Cash and Richard Johnson have joined as Parent Governors, while Rev. Joe Stone from St Francis Church has joined as a Foundation Governor.

We are now nearly at our full compliment of 12 Governors with our only vacancy being for another Foundation Governor.

Your current Governing Board members are as follows:

### **Staff Governors (2 of 2)**

Mrs Justine Watkins is automatically appointed to the Governing Board in her capacity as Head Teacher.

Miss Hannah Crook is the elected Staff Governor. She is the senior teacher at the school and provides the link between the Governing Board and the staff to represent staff views.

### **Parent Governors (3 of 3)**

Mrs Nicola Clare is a Parent Governor with children past and present at the school. She is the link governor for the School Development Plan priority on reading, as well as online safety and cyber security.

Mrs Emma Cash has recently been elected to the Governing Board as a Parent Governor and has a child who has just started at the school. She brings experience in governance, education and looked-after children to the board. She is currently understudying the Safeguarding link role.

Mr Richard Johnson has also recently been elected to the Governing Board as a Parent Governor, with children both past and present attending the school. He brings IT and analytical experience to the board.

### **Co-Opted Governors (4 of 4)**

Mr Andy Mintram (Chair of Governors) started as a Parent Governor but has since been co-opted, though he still has children at the school. He is the link governor for the School Development Plan priorities on writing and governance, as well as bringing expertise in finance and governance.

Mr Rhodri Morrison (Vice Chair of Governors) started as a Parent Governor but has since been co-opted, though he still has children at the school. He is the link governor for the School Development Plan priorities on maths and curriculum subject leadership, as well as Health & Safety.

Mrs Carole Long started as a Foundation Governor but has since been co-opted. She is the link governor for children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and for children receiving support funding (Pupil Premium).

Mr Lloyd Turner started as a Parent Governor but has since been co-opted, though he still has children at the school. He is the link governor for the School Development Plan priorities on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), as well as providing a contact for whistleblowing.

## **Local Authority Governor (1 of 1)**

Miss Angi Britten started as a Parent Governor but then became the Local Authority Governor. She is the link governor for Safeguarding and for looked-after children. Angi has given fantastic service to the Governing Board for many years and is now looking to stand down at the end of the school year.

## **Foundation Governors (1 of 2)**

Rev. Joseph Stone has recently joined the Governing Board as a Foundation Governor, and brings previous experience of governance and education to the board.

## **School progress and aims for the future**

The School has a Strategic Plan which provides the vision for the school. The current Strategic Plan was written 5 years ago and reaches its conclusion this academic year and the Governors are in the process of developing a new plan along with the Headteacher and support from the Local Authority.

Since Mrs Watkins appointment as Headteacher, the main focus has been on the quality of education provided for all children. This is underpinned by the School Development Plan (SDP): a working document which details key aims and objectives identified for improvement during the school year.

The SDP is revised annually and continuously reviewed. Areas for improvement identified during the previous ungraded Ofsted inspection in November 2022 were captured along with other areas identified by Mrs Watkins, with actions agreed to achieve the desired outcomes.

The SDP contained the following areas of focus:

- Reading
- Writing
- Maths
- Subject Leadership
- EYFS
- Governance

Governors monitored progress against the SDP actions through planned monitoring visits, discussions with staff and children and a review of data.

The agreed actions supported much of the evidence required for the recent graded Ofsted inspection that resulted in a 'Good' rating, and demonstrated the effectiveness of the SDP process in driving improvements.

During the Ofsted inspection, we were delighted to hear that 100% of parents who completed feedback to Ofsted said that they would recommend the school to other parents. This is yet another demonstration of the work that has been put in by the staff to ensure that children get the education they deserve and that our Parents recognise this.

In summary, the Governors are extremely proud of the progress the school continues to make and enjoy a highly co-operative and supportive relationship with Mrs Watkins and all the school staff.

The development of the new Strategic Plan will now become our main focus, to ensure that the school can continue to deliver the high standards of education it prides itself on, whilst dealing with the financial challenges that all schools now face.