

GOVERNORS' REPORT TO PARENTS

July 2020

Inspiring belief in God and one another

The Governors in 2019-2020

The current School governors are: Ms Anne Messer (Chair and Premises Link Governor), Mrs Cecilia Thwaites (Vice-Chair and SEND Link Governor), Mr Shehzad Awan (Finance Link Governor), Mr Mayank Taneja (Website and Data Link Governor), Mr Allan Joseph (Safeguarding Link Governor and Parent Governor), Mrs Anita Pinnalawatta (Teaching and Learning Link Governor and Parent Governor), Mrs Hurst and Mrs McCarthy (Staff Governor).

Our Christian Vision

Our vision is for a thriving and outstanding school where children and adults have the opportunity to become the best they can be, and to inspire belief in God and in one another.

Every member of the school community is valued as a unique individual treasured by a loving God, who says: 'I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.' Isaiah 49:16.

Inspiring belief...

- in ourselves – through progression and fulfilment
- in each other – through motivation and teamwork
- in the children – through showing them their potential
- in the parents – through building trust by results
- in God to all – through our whole lives.

Summary of the 2019-2020 School Year

This has been an eventful school year – first Mrs Hurst took a sabbatical during the Spring Term, and then we faced the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. At the time of writing this report, the school has been partially closed for more than 100 days.

As governors, we are very proud of the school's senior leadership team and all staff for how they have pulled together to respond to the government's guidance and to our community's needs since the official school closures in late March 2020. Many staff have worked tirelessly to keep the school partially open and safe for all. We are also thankful to Mrs Knock for her careful leadership of the school in Mrs Hurst's absence.

As governors, between September 2019 and March 2020:

- We approved four school improvement projects – new electronic whiteboards for the year 5 and year 6 classrooms; new fire doors; a new projector and screen in the hall; and new curriculum resources.

- We got to try out the wonderful new lunches on offer through the Chefs in Schools initiative – and we celebrate the work of Chef Nicolas Derambure, in creating yummy, nutritious and affordable school meals.
- We held a governor walk in November, focusing on literacy and book displays in the classroom, as well as how the school promoted its Christian vision and values. The displays in each classroom featured posters of the current book and displays of vocabulary, as well as displaying an example of every child's work. The reading corners were appealingly designed to foster a love of reading for the children. Outside the classrooms were Guided Reading shelves and Power of Reading texts. We then had a great feedback session with two pupils from each year group. The children told us what books they most loved to read, and gave ideas for improving the classroom book corners, such as: organising the books into sections of fiction and non-fiction, funny, serious, etc; writing a summary of the books to help others who haven't read them. At our subsequent meeting, Mrs McCarthy showed us photos of the reading corners with these changes implemented.
- Our Link Governors have also visited school to meet with the School Business Manager for finances and safeguarding inspections, the SENDCo, the Premises Manager, and helping to keep the school website up to date.
- We said farewell to the much-loved vicar of St Richard's Church, Revd Craig Holmes, who moved to a new post in Guildford in November 2019. We thank Craig for his many years of pastoral care for the school community and his voice of wisdom on our governing board.
- We had hoped to meet many parents at the parents' evening scheduled in March 2020, when we were due to attend and carry out the annual parent survey. Unfortunately this couldn't happen due to the pandemic, but we hope to meet many of you at the first 'normal' parents' evening in the forthcoming school year.

Our meetings up to the closure focused on:

- Receiving regular reports from Mrs Hurst, Mrs Knock and Mrs McCarthy about the life of the School, and evaluating their key decisions.
- Adopting new policies to comply with the LDBS Academies Trust, ensuring these policies are being implemented across the life of the School, and maintaining our own policies to ensure statutory compliance. You can find the policies on [the school's website](#) or ask the school office.
- Monitoring the school's expenditure.
- Monitoring safeguarding and health and safety incidents as they have arisen.
- Monitoring pupil progress and attainment, which is tracked half-termly by the staff.
- Overseeing the development of the school's new curriculum.

Since the partial school closure, we have supported the school's senior leaders by:

- Evaluating the risk assessment for the safe, phased reopening of the school.
- Monitoring the school's compliance with government guidance.
- Reviewing the risk assessment on a regular basis as children have returned.
- Monitoring the impact of the partial school closure on the school's finances.
- Monitoring how the school is meeting its safeguarding obligations.
- Being a sounding board for their ideas about how to best support the children's ongoing learning needs during this time.

Please rest assured that we will continue working with the school's senior leaders over summer to prepare for a safe start to the new term for all, in compliance with the new government guidance for the full reopening of schools.

Let's celebrate!

We are so proud of the three year 6 girls and the three year 6 boys who put themselves forward for the entrance exams to Hampton School and LEH School. The governors congratulate Batuhan and Agalyan, who gained full bursaries to Hampton Boys School. We wish all our year 6 children a very successful start to year 7, and we look forward to welcoming a new cohort of Nursery and Reception pupils in September.

Staying in touch

Please feel free to contact the Governors at any time, about any issue affecting school life or any questions you may have. You can reach us at governors@strichards.hounslow.sch.uk.

Minutes from our meetings during the 2019-20 school year are available here:

<http://www.strichardsschool.org.uk/about-our-school/our-governors/>

Anne, Cecilia, Shehzad, Mayank, Allan, Anita, Mrs Hurst and Mrs McCarthy