St Wilfrid's CofE Primary School
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GROWING SUCCESS
ROOTED IN FAITH

Governors' Report 2017-18

Dear Parents and Carers

As we settle into the new school year, it is my pleasure to share with you some of the school's achievements over the last year and the areas of focus for this year. Last year was truly an extraordinary year with progress on many fronts.

The most important achievement was to secure stable leadership for the school. The Governing Body was delighted to welcome our new Headteacher, Mr Simon Hateley, to the school in April and shortly afterwards to appoint Ms Vicki Strange as Deputy Headteacher after an open and competitive process.

Other significant achievements over the year are:

Excellent interim leadership arrangements from September 2017 to March 2018. The experience that our interim headteachers brought to St Wilfrid's was phenomenal and enabled the Ofsted journey to gain momentum. The School Improvement Plan received a boost and was reviewed, renewed and implemented with all the energy and rigour that interim appointments can bring. Our teaching and support staff worked tirelessly to support the children's learning over the year.

Data Tracking System. In July 2017 governors and school leaders took a bold decision to change the way we keep track of children's achievement and their progress. This was a learning curve, but we are delighted that the new system, Target Tracker, helps teachers, school leaders and ourselves understand children's learning and where extra help is needed.

A sustained focus on the quality of teaching. During the Autumn and Spring terms the school received two grants from the West Sussex Area Inclusion and Improvement Board. One grant enabled staff to see best practice in operation in other schools and transfer their learning to our school. The other grant enabled Mrs Penny Kennedy to continue her work on teaching and learning at the school, maintaining continuity into the Spring term, until she passed the baton to our new headteacher after Easter. The summer term was when the fruits of this approach became apparent with information about pupil progress that could be 'triangulated': the information from Target Tracker is reviewed alongside pupils' work and teacher assessment. We were pleased with our KS2 results (our reading result was one of the best in West Sussex). Further performance details can be found on the school website. In the summer term the school was awarded the Platinum School Games Mark, the highest it is possible to achieve. We are grateful to Mr Belton for his hard work in this area.

Significant investment in our Early Years facilities. This year built on improvements immediately after Ofsted. The Early Years unit moved to new classrooms in September 2017. Later in the Autumn Term there were building works to strengthen the link between the Early Years garden and classrooms to create 'free flow' and allow children more choice about their learning environment. Links between the two early years classrooms were also strengthened to allow 'free flow' between the different learning areas in each classroom. There is further work planned to create toilet facilities within this area, so we can have an Early Years facility which excels. Our EYFS results were externally moderated and significantly exceeded 2018 National results.

Investment in the school premises. Despite incredibly tight budgets, we were still able to improve the school premises with new windows for Robins, Hedgehogs and Squirrels classrooms (grant from the diocese), playground improvements (Sports Premium grant), renovations of the KS2 boys' toilets and lots of decorating and gardening work with help from parents and the wider community of St Wilfrid's. A big Thank You to everyone who helped – your amazing support has made a real difference to the learning environment.

West Sussex Internal Audit. During the year we had a visit from the West Sussex Audit Team and were delighted to be awarded a 'Substantial' rating for our financial and management practices which is the highest level. We were recognised as a beacon of good practice and are very grateful to our Business Manager, Mr Steve Miles, for all his hard work in this area.

Introduction of Wraparound Care at St Wilfrid's. We are pleased that the school is now able to offer before and after school childcare on site and hope that this facility, operated by Treetops (which is independently subject to Ofsted regulation), will be a positive influence in parents' choice of school for their children.

Vision and Values. Having substantive leadership in place has meant that we have been able to review and update our Vision and Values, demonstrating our commitment to our children's learning, whilst maintaining all that we value about St Wilfrid's. This exciting work continues into this year as we explore what Growing Success, Rooted in Faith means in practice, alongside our six Values:

Caring, Hoping, Aspiring, Respecting, Inquiring, Sharing.

Looking forward in 2018 /19, the main priority for St Wilfrid's is to regain our Ofsted Good rating; the school priorities for this year are:

1. To further improve the outcomes for pupils, especially in writing and for disadvantaged pupils. 2. To further improve the quality of teaching with a greater % deemed outstanding. 3. To further improve behaviour for learning, underpinned by attendance exceeding national expectations. 4. To maintain the improvements in the Early Years unit and embed aspects of outstanding practice.

The Governing Body will be monitoring progress against these objectives as well as working hard to promote the school. Governors will continue to invest in their training and will work to strengthen the understanding of our role. Further information about the Governing Body is available on the school website.

Finally, the reason we all work so hard: the children of St Wilfrid's who continue to be a delight and give of their best. Visitors often comment on their excellent manners and their responsible attitudes. Thank you for all you do to help your children succeed at school and for all your support. It makes a difference and we are extremely grateful.

With very best wishes

Jill Garraway

Chair of Governors