

School Governors Report: April 2021

April 2020-April 2021

The last year for St Andrew's Primary School has been, like many organisations and institutions, one of far too many 'unprecedented' moments. Staff and pupils thrown into virtual learning, with teaching from home (and to home); and managing socially distanced in-school learning and all that goes with it, from the coordination of arrivals and departures in the playground to the changes in teaching style.

Throughout the year the governors have been continually thankful for the leadership provided by St Andrew's headteacher, Cath Mann, and her team. Despite the constant change and uncertainty nationally, the school's senior management team have provided true leadership in our community. They have kept their focus on the needs of St Andrew's community and its vision: With God's love, we live, learn and grow together.

For the school's governors the pandemic has had two major impacts: a move to virtual meetings, which again with the support of the school's leadership has posed little difficulty, and a reduced ability to visit the school. The latter, a real shame felt across the governing body.

The governor's work this last year has, naturally, focused on supporting the school react to all the changes thrust upon it. Wellbeing has been theme running through all the year's discussions. The governors have been proud of the support the school's staff have continued to provide to vulnerable families, and the care and diligence taken over the wellbeing of pupils through transitions to home learning and back into school. The wellbeing of staff as workloads balloon has remained a key factor in the governing body's considerations.

The link between school and church has continued to thrive – albeit virtually – through Steve's regular Time For God sessions.

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While difficult to look back beyond the current situation, the year prior to the pandemic was one of notable achievements. The school received an 'Excellent' grading from inspectors conducting a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS), which examines all aspects of school life to determine whether the school's distinctive Christian vision enables pupils and adults to flourish. The inspector commented particularly that "God's love [was]... at the centre of school life and work" and that "there is a clear emphasis on the importance of the individual and on recognising their gifts and talents."

The year also saw the successful launch of our Breakfast and After-School clubs. The governors were pleased with this extension to the provision St Andrews offers.

These successes built on the continuing work to ensure strong academic standards and the embedding of the new enhanced vision throughout school life.

Chris Willett, April 2021