

# St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

## Governor's Newsletter

March 2016



*Living and Learning in  
Spirit and in Truth*

### St Nicholas Catholic Primary School Governing Body

**Chair of Governors:**

Jane Wardle

**Vice Chair of Governors:**

Frankie Phillips

**Chair of Resources  
Committee:**

Lisa Thomas

**Chair of Teaching &  
Learning Committee:**

Lata Ramoutar

**Chair of Admissions &  
Pupil Welfare:**

Monsignor Harry Doyle

**Foundation Governors:**

Jane Wardle

Frankie Phillips

David Greenstreet

Mnsgr Harry Doyle

Angela Bosley

**Community Governor:**

Lisa Thomas

**Parent Governors:**

Luke Robinson

Michelle Johnson

**Staff Governors:**

Amelia Harding

Huw Hadden

**Associate Governors:**

Lata Ramoutar

Paul Varghese

Lauren Stone

**Headteacher: Mrs A Folland**

### Safeguarding

We are delighted to have been graded outstanding in our recent safeguarding audit. The safety of our children remains of paramount importance to us and we will continue to evaluate and improve our procedures to ensure the continued safety of our children.

The Governing body and staff have all taken part in the Government's 'Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent'. This is part of the government counter-terrorism strategy, designed to prevent people from supporting or becoming involved in terrorism. This includes having extreme right wing views, or being extremely pro- or anti- hunting. Primary schools have a key role to play in supporting vulnerable children, and ensuring the curriculum helps children to understand and appreciate British values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith. These are all in line with our ethos and teachings as a Catholic school.

### Increasing our Nursery hours

We are pleased to have been able to respond to the feedback from parents around the need for increasing the number of hours that St Nicholas's can provide nursery care. A high priority for our resources committee has been to understand and evaluate the cost-effectiveness of offering this 'wrap-around' care for our nursery children. The governing body agreed the business case earlier this week, and we are very pleased that we will be able to offer this to parents from 1<sup>st</sup> May.

### Resources

The Resources committee are currently setting next years' budget. This is always a difficult task, and whilst budgets seem to get tighter every year we will continue to ensure that our budget is set to help support the school in attaining the best outcomes for the children.

We have been working closely with CAST and the Senior Leadership Team to rectify issues that have arisen with the school building. We now have new boilers for the hot water and are liaising closely with the original building contractors to rectify the on-going problems with the roof.

Our new School website is in development which will be much more user friendly for both parents and children.

### Teaching and Learning

The T&L committee met this term with priorities of monitoring the quality of teaching, the new assessment framework and the new curriculum. We are pleased to note that the quality of teaching is 100% good or outstanding and this is continually under review. "Learning without Levels" has been a challenge nationally but the school has successfully introduced its new system and this was communicated to parents at the recent Parent's Evenings. There is continued and increased emphasis on "closing the gap" ensuring that vulnerable children have their needs identified and met through high quality interventions.

### Catholic Life of the School

As you will be aware, our school recently had an inspection from the Diocese of Plymouth regarding the Catholic Life of the School. A number of governors were involved in the school's self-evaluation, and in subsequent formal meetings with the inspectors. The report was extremely positive, and the governors received feedback about their excellent level of engagement with the school. Whilst we carry on ensuring that the faith life of our school continues to grow, we hope that you are as pleased with the report as we are.

### Strategic direction

One of the roles of the Governing Body is to set the strategic direction for the school. This has been one of our priorities for this term, building on the feedback we gathered from parents and staff last term. Work will carry on throughout the summer term, to refine our thinking, and we'll provide an update in July.

With best wishes for a happy Easter, Jane Wardle, Chair of Governors