

July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing on behalf of the Governing Body to celebrate the achievements of our school and to thank you for your overwhelming support of the Staff and Governors of St. Joseph's.

The role of the Governing Body is to work with the Headteacher in the strategic leadership and management of the curriculum, setting and managing the budget, overseeing staffing, and the general maintenance and development of the school buildings and grounds. The Governors take an active interest in all aspects of our school and we are committed to the children's safety and well being, in children making good progress in their learning and in achieving high standards. We regularly visit school to meet with Mrs. Taylor and celebrate all the wonderful achievements of the children and staff and to witness the children living out the Gospel values in their everyday lives. It is always a pleasure to see firsthand the fantastic opportunities our children have and the high standard of work they produce. As Governors, we also attend training organised by Trafford LA and Diocesan Governor Services.

We are fortunate enough to have our Parish Church next door to the school, providing a wonderful opportunity for the whole school to be together when we meet for Mass each week. It is such a privilege to witness the children leading the Mass with such reverence and respect. Our children are aware of the needs of those less fortunate than themselves and have raised funds over the year to support the work of CAFOD, The Valley of the Moon Nursery in Bolivia, Cornerstone in Manchester, Trafford Social Services, The Salvation Army, Trafford Little Bundles and The Ronald McDonald House in Manchester. I, along with other members of the Governing Body, have visited school and taken part in Collective Worship and had opportunities to speak to the children.

Pastoral care and the wellbeing of our children is high on our agenda at St Joseph's and this year we have had a focus on positive mental wellbeing and personal development. Our school has continued to excel in all aspects of school life and the children have been involved in many activities including trips to the railways at Ramsbottom where the children had the opportunity to dress up as evacuees; a visit to China Town and Quarry Bank Mill, to name but a few. Year 6 enjoyed a residential trip to the Robinwood Adventure Centre in Wales and had the opportunity to grow and flourish, working as a team and developing their social and interpersonal skills.

The children enjoy a creative curriculum and have had opportunities to take part in a variety of music and drama experiences. Our choir has an outstanding reputation and we were congratulated by the Mayor of Manchester after our Christmas performance at the Bridgewater Hall. We are also very proud of all the sporting achievements of our pupils and this year we have been awarded many accolades. Our girls' football team had the opportunity to represent Manchester United in Wolverhampton where they were awarded the Fair Play trophy. We also have

strong and successful teams in netball and hockey and cross country events were very well attended. Congratulations to all our children for their achievements in extracurricular activities.

During the summer holiday of 2018, the first phase to extend our school hall started and was completed in the autumn term holiday. This extension has been a wonderful addition to the school and makes the dining experience for the children a more pleasant experience and means the whole school is able to come together for collective worship.

Funding is an issue for all schools and we need to be vigilant in ensuring our views for a Fairer Funding Formula are heard and funding is directed to schools. Trafford schools are amongst the lowest funded schools in the country and as a faith school we receive less money again. We have made our views known to our MP's and ask you to continue supporting us in the matter.

The Governing Body would like to thank the PTA for their tireless work in raising funds for our school to enhance our outdoor environment, which the school budget does not allow for. Many thanks to our generous parents for supporting these fundraising events with memorable occasions from the School Fair to the Spring Ball. Funds have enabled the school to erect a new canopy for the EYFS area and purchase a set of class iPads to name but a few things.

Expectations of the children are high and the behaviour and conduct of our children is exemplary. Visitors to the school, members of the Parish community and the general public who see the children out and about on school trips, often write to Mrs. Taylor to congratulate the children on the outstanding way they represent our school.

The Governing Body is responsible for monitoring performance and our school results this year are excellent with St Joseph's exceeding national and local expectations. Congratulations to our children, staff and parents on these excellent results.

Thank you to all our parents who show such love, care and compassion to one another, supporting families when they are in need of help both practically and emotionally. We have seen an exceptional outpouring of love over the last few months which shows the true bonds of our school family.

On behalf of the Governors at St Joseph's, I would like to thank all members of staff for making our school a great place to be and a wonderful environment for our children to learn and grow.

Yours sincerely,

Deborah Loftus  
**Chair of Governors**