



Chudleigh CE VC Community Primary School

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21<sup>st</sup> July 2017

### **Governing Board annual report to parents**

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of another school year, I am pleased to be able to provide information on the work of the Governing Board since the last annual report. We hope that our termly updates have been of interest to you, and in this report we have broken down some of our work over the past year into the three core strategic functions of Governing Boards.

### **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**

- **Strategic plan** – Throughout this year we have continued to work on the various aspects of our strategic plan, focussing not least on collaborative work with other schools and school expansion. This also included research and initial planning around the potential nursery unit. You will already be aware that this is no longer going ahead due to the withdrawal of funding, but some of the work carried out by staff and governors this year will be useful as we continue to think about how we manage the growing number of children in our school.

You will be aware from our previous letters that we have been working closely with a number of other local primary schools over the past year, and governors have been monitoring the impact of the collaboration. Working with other schools in this way has provided opportunities for staff to work together on areas such as moderating assessments, monitoring provision and peer-to-peer support. We will continue to monitor this work and work with staff to explore how collaboration could continue to support school improvement. This will form part of a strategy session with staff at the start of next term, as we begin to review our strategic plan for the next few years.

- **Refreshed vision and values** – You may recall that last year we refreshed the school values, and this year's work by governors including monitoring whether the new core Christian value of forgiveness had become embedded along with the other values of friendship, happiness, kindness, love, respect and teamwork. Visits to school and discussions with children indicate that this is indeed the case. This will be one of the areas considered by the inspectors of Anglican and Methodist schools, who are due to visit Chudleigh next term.

### **Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff**

- **School Improvement Plan (SIP) Monitoring Group** – This small group of governors continues to meet members of the Senior Leadership Team each term to scrutinise in detail various aspects of the SIP and to monitor development towards progress and attainment targets. The reporting of 2016 performance data was quite different to that of previous years, so we have been ensuring that

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governors have a good understanding of the new assessment processes. You will have seen the school's headline performance data for 2017 in the school newsletter this week, and full national performance data will be available for governors to analyse fully in the autumn term.

- **Staff performance management** – With the exception of the Headteacher, governors are not involved in the performance management of staff. We do, however, need to be confident that performance management processes are robust, supporting staff development and school improvement. One of the ways we do this is through receiving an anonymous annual report which provides examples of staff objectives and overview information on whether staff have met the previous year's objectives. Our analysis of this information indicates that objectives are challenging but not unrealistic, supporting staff and the school.

### **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent**

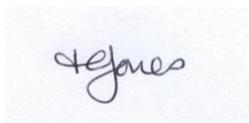
- **Place planning** – You will be aware that, for the second year running, we have increased our admission number for the foundation stage to accommodate the growing demand for places. This requires careful financial planning, and governors work closely with staff to monitor budgets and ensure that our financial position remains healthy. You will be aware of concerns locally and nationally with regards to school funding, and this is having an impact on all schools. Fortunately, thanks to prudent financial management, our budgets have not caused us to have to make significant changes to staffing levels, but we continue to monitor this closely. We will undoubtedly continue to see an increasing demand for school places in the coming years, and financial planning will be key to ensuring we can meet the challenges and opportunities that this will bring.

These are just some of the key areas we have worked on this year, but you can read more about our work by reading the minutes of Governing Board meetings which are available on the school website and on the noticeboard in the school foyer. You can also find out more about the roles and responsibilities of school governors on the school website. Parents elected two new parent governors this year, Jo Huxtable and Sarah Lea-Weston, who have undertaken induction training and are already contributing to our work.

We do welcome the views of parents so, should you have a comment or suggestion, please complete a 'comments, congratulations and concerns' form available in the school foyer. These forms provide an opportunity for parents and carers to pass on their thanks to members of staff as well as raise any whole-school comments or concerns, and can be handed in to the school office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff and governors for their continued hard work and dedication. Thank you also for your ongoing support for the school and I wish you an enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely,



Hayley Jones  
Chair of Governors

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