

## Dear Parents and Carers

### Governors Report to Parents 2017-18

#### Introduction

The governors hope you will be interested to receive a brief report on our activities during 2017-18. We decided to keep it short but would be happy to give you more detailed information if you would like to request it.

#### Our purpose

Our primary purpose as governors is to support and challenge the School to ensure that your children are receiving the best possible education. We work within the framework established by the Palladian Academy Trust.

#### Successes

We have visited classrooms to see lessons and have received regular updates on pupils' work. We are pleased to report that there has been significant progress in learning outcomes and behaviour during the past year, continuing the good work of the year before. In all classes pupils have made considerable progress and as a result the School is now recognised as being above the Government's expected standard (the 'floor standard').

The Margaret Coates Centre continues to provide highly regarded education to its pupils. The governors in 2017-18 were determined to engage more fully with the work of the Centre and asked one of the governors to take responsibility for overseeing its work and giving advice and support. This has been well received.

A consultant from the Department of Education, who visited the School three times during the year, commented favourably on the pupils' behaviour and their readiness for learning. He recognised the progress being made and encouraged the staff to be more confident about their achievements.

The School and the Trust have expressed confidence in the way the Governing Body functions, as well as in the calibre of the governors and the range of experience they bring.

#### Curriculum

The governors have been pleased to observe that as well as working hard to improve outcomes in Maths, Reading and Writing, during the past two years the staff have developed a stimulating broader curriculum. This has included topics covering material drawn from History, Geography, Science and other subject areas.

#### Vision and Values

The governors decided in this report to emphasise the work we did on our *Vision and Values* for the School as they underpin all the School's endeavours. In order to draw up a list we thought about what we would want pupils to say about their experiences in the School when they reached the end of year six. We then

endorsed the ethos and values already published on the School website and produced the following list that combines both sets of values:

*The School aims to:*

- provide a positive, inspirational and creative learning environment within a safe, happy and secure community
- give opportunities for children to gain confidence and pleasure in learning through a vibrant curriculum
- foster links with families to provide continuity of care and support for learning
- create a community where children feel valued, cared for and listened to so that they carry memorable experiences of school and the friendships formed there
- nurture life skills
- value achievement and celebrate success
- encourage high expectations in all aspects of learning
- ensure equality and opportunity for all
- promote an awareness and acceptance of diversity and encourage children to challenge unfairness
- embrace and accommodate children with a diverse range of needs and abilities
- support effort, perseverance and pride.

The brief School motto, '**Be kind, try hard, do your best**', sums up what we all want from the children in our school.

### **Objectives 2018-19**

During this year we want to increase our contacts with parents and the wider community. We will endeavour to communicate how successful the School has been recently and hence improve recruitment to the School. Another focus is the wellbeing of staff and pupils, a key aim given the significant pressure of their work.

### **Your comments**

If you have any comments or suggestions on the report, or on governing in general, we'd love to receive them. You can communicate with governors via [governors@stmartinsgarden.org.uk](mailto:governors@stmartinsgarden.org.uk).

### **Individual governors**

You will find information about individual governors on the School's website. We're particularly pleased that a second parent joined the Governing Body in September as the contribution of parent governors is of crucial importance in our work.

Yours truly

Julia Garratt  
Chair of Governors