

St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Basildon
Local Governing Committee's report to parents and guardians



1 Introduction from the chair of governors, Carmel Jones

Dear parents and guardians – happy Christmas!

This is our annual summary to inform you about the work of your school.

We are delighted that St. Teresa's nursery is now open. As school governors opening a nursery on our site has been our vision for the past few years. We have always supported this important project.

Some of our very young children in our nursery will now join their older relatives and neighbours in our main school, then, in turn, will be joined by their younger relatives and neighbours. We believe that extending provision in this way will allow our school to provide even better opportunities to all our school family and our year six pupils will be ready to take up the challenge of their secondary education for years and generations to come.

– Carmel Jones, December 2019

2 Changes in the Local Governing Committee

Our year three teacher Tracey Baker is standing down as staff governor after several years of very valuable service to concentrate on her work as Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator. We thank Tracey and welcome her replacement, Pupil Support Manager Sue Fuller.

Being part of the Christus Catholic Trust (see section 3 below) means the school co-operates with other schools on many matters including financial management. For that reason our Lead Governor for Financial Management Claire O'Connor now sits on the Trust board rather than our Local Governing Committee. We thank Claire for her past and continuing service.

3 Changes in the Christus Catholic Trust

St Teresa's was the first school to join the Christus Catholic Trust, (previously called the Brentwood Diocesan Multi Academy Trust). During 2019, four more schools have joined:

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Stanford-le-Hope

St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School, Grays

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Tilbury

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, South Ockendon

4 What the governors have done

Since the last annual report was published the full governing board has met **five** times. The minutes of all these meetings including the decisions we made are available from the school office.

Parents and guardians who were with us through it will know that recent years have seen a lot of change due to the requirements of government and how our MAT has chosen to implement them. 2019 has been less eventful and we have observed the school operating at its current stable state. We make these observations by measuring, monitoring and scrutinizing the school's performance.

5 What the school has done well

In July the school was inspected under section 48 of the Education Act 2005 and 2011, which focuses on religious education teaching and learning and opportunities for pupils to be part of our catholic community. The inspector awarded the school the grade “good” and his report begins “*St Teresa’s is a very good school with a growing number of outstanding features*”. The full report is available from the school website or office.

The school has now completed adapting to OSFTED’s new education inspection framework which calls for a “broad and balanced” curriculum providing a “wide range of subjects” with an emphasis on “knowledge, skills and cultural capital”.

In our opinion our pupils are happy and learning well. Those pupils who are not always happy or not always achieving as they can are receiving the best help and support our school can provide.

We believe throughout the last year the school’s policies have been correct, its compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements has been secure, it has operated according to its Catholic ethos and its provision has been superb.

Feedback from our parents and guardians is generally very good. We think and hope that our parents and guardians understand that if you ever see a problem we as governors are always ready to listen and to understand, discuss and act on it.

6 What we want to see improve

If we could improve attendance, everything else about the school would improve. As everyone who is part of any team knows, the team works best and improves most when the whole team is there.

We know the challenges our pupils, parents and guardians face and we want to help with them to ensure our pupils are in school. We are thinking about how to achieve this and would be very grateful for any suggestion or comment, from anyone.

7 Our vision for the future

We believe improvements at St Teresa’s, achieved by implementing government guidelines, are secure and expect that future inspections and assessments will recognize this.

8 The Local Governing Committee

There are currently seven governors. The term of office is five years. The chair and vice chair are elected annually.

Carmel Jones

Chair of governors and lead governor for religious education

Reappointed 18th November 2018

Attended 5 full governing committee meetings in 2019

Letitia Bourke

Lead governor for safeguarding and special educational needs

Reappointed 18th November 2018

Attended 5 full governing committee meetings in 2019

Nuala Cashell

Headteacher governor

Reappointed 18th November 2018

Attended 5 full governing committee meetings in 2019

Sue Fuller

Staff governor

Appointed 21st November 2019

Yet to attend first meeting

Edward Bishop

Foundation governor and lead governor for teaching, learning & assessment

Reappointed 18th November 2018

Attended 5 full governing committee meetings in 2019

Michael Sear

Parent governor and lead governor for health, safety and premises

Appointed 1st December 2017

Attended 3 full governing committee meetings in 2019

Fr Ric Fernandez

Foundation governor

Appointed 18th November 2018

Attended 1 full governing committee meeting in 2019