

St Martin's Church of England Primary School

Governing Board Report - 2019/20

The Governing Board (GB) for St Martin's wants to provide a clear and concise outline of what we have achieved since September 2019 and hope these two documents allow you to see what has happened.

Each Governing Board is required to complete an Annual Impact Statement and ours is attached. It is a lengthy statement but easy to read. It contains plenty of information that demonstrates what we have done over the past eleven months.

I wanted to add a few additional lines as we have been through such a challenging time by virtue of the change in head-teacher and an unprecedented period during lockdown.

In November 2019 we were faced with the temporary loss of Mrs Beard and the need to support Mrs Harvey, our acting head-teacher. As many of you will recognise Mrs Harvey has done a tremendous job and continues to do so. Members of the GB spent time in school making sure she felt supported in her the new role.

When Mrs Beard decided to take early retirement the GB provided further support to the school in supporting Mrs Harvey and working out our next steps. It then committed itself to a review of our operating model. Should we stay as we are, should we join a multi-academy trust or join a federation? This work is ongoing still as the advent of lockdown meant things went on hold as our lives were disrupted and we were required to support the school in a different way.

The GB considers Mrs Harvey and all the staff at St Martin's did a wonderful job in keeping the school open for the children of key workers and those who needed extra support, whilst providing home learning for all the children unable to attend. It responded promptly in opening the school to children from Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Six and went even further by providing places to children from all other year groups for the last few weeks of the term. The school has done more than many other schools in this regard and the positivity of all members of staff is appreciated.

Throughout this time the GB has been supporting Mrs Harvey and the staff, approving plans for opening the school further and making sure that the plans to open more widely were correct and well prepared for our children. There have been regular meetings, video calls, phone calls and, more recently, personal visits.

The school will be ready to welcome all children back in September, there will be plenty to do but the staff are looking forward to the challenge. The GB is looking forward to a busy but more straight forward year.

One issue that remains a difficulty for us is the recruitment and retention of governors. It is a significant commitment but a worthwhile one. If you are interested in becoming a governor please contact me, my details are listed below.

John Clements, Chair of the Governing Board

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