
St. Catherine of Siena Primary School

Annual Governor's Report 2022

The first part of the academic year continued to be a challenge due to the effects of the Covid 19 Pandemic, however, as we reach the final term of the year, school is successfully progressing to a pre-pandemic existence. During the difficult times, the governing board supported Mrs. Leck and the senior leadership team in the implementation of risk assessment and management to enable continuing education provision for our children. The staff in school invested a lot of time and effort to minimise the disruption to the children as much as possible. The achievement by all the staff to continue to support the children and their families and to facilitate teaching in the challenging circumstances has been quite remarkable, just like all our children and their families who had to endure such a different learning environment. The board continues to maintain a keen interest in safeguarding and also in the well-being of both pupils and staff, especially as a result of the effects of the circumstances during the last two years.

The governors continue to fulfil their strategic core functions (as described in the governor information on the school website) and are able to conduct visits to school in person again, enabling engagement with our school community. We have come together for meetings of the full board and committees to ask questions regarding the school status and if priority objectives have been successful, to ensure the educational needs of our pupils are met. We continue to scrutinise your feedback from surveys to make improvements where needed and encourage continuing professional development of staff to ensure a well equipped workforce. The board has supported Mrs Leck and the senior leadership team's decisions to ensure the objectives within the school development plan are achieved and continue to monitor success in teaching and learning, particularly since the implementation of the new broad and balanced curriculum which was introduced at the beginning of the year. We have had the opportunity to speak to all the subject leads to understand how learning is achieved and to ensure inclusivity for children of all abilities. SATs have been held in all schools again after a two year gap and the teaching staff and children have worked hard in preparation. We are pleased to announce the results are very good and demonstrate the success of our school.

We have particularly enjoyed being present for school masses, the celebration assemblies and coffee mornings where we can join in prayers together and celebrate achievement with the

children and their families. We love to see the pictures and hear how the children have enjoyed and benefited from the school trips, workshops and class projects. Our children are always complimented when representing the school, both in school and away from school, which demonstrates the success of our three school rules and the vision & ethos of school as the children progress through to year six. We especially enjoyed joining the celebrations for the Queen's platinum jubilee in school with the children and their families, which marked such a special event for our country and after two years 'on hold', thoroughly enjoyed watching the fun and games of Sports Day.

The governors meet with the School Council at times during the year to discuss and support their particular focus and interests. We also support the anti bullying ambassadors who constantly encourage good behaviour across school, by example. The governors continue to monitor implementation of the behaviour and anti-bullying policies and encourage school to move forward to achieve the National 'Ant-Bullying Award'.

We would always want to support the PTA events and are very grateful for the hard work and efforts made by them for the benefit of all the children in school. The money raised by the PTA this year has been put towards IT equipment which is crucial to prepare the children in our technological world. After a long wait, the PTA were again able to host the 'Summer Fair' on the 8th of July which was such fun for everyone. We would like to thank all the families who came along and supported this enjoyable summer event.

We are very much aware that our school building is at an age where maintenance is a priority and the finance committee continue to monitor its structural integrity in partnership with the Archdiocese. Particular projects are currently ongoing, these include: the investigation of flooding in the KS2 playground and improvement to the staff cloakroom. Over the summer holidays staff facilities will finally be upgraded along with the instillation of a new disability toilet. To improve biodiversity and eventually privacy, trees have been planted along the perimeter fence by the footpath. The finance committee along with Mrs Leck and the school business manager continue to oversee targeted spend and financial management of school funds to enhance education delivery and improve the school environment.

Like many schools, attendance has been negatively affected during the pandemic. This year, normal school hours were resumed, but attendance in school remains disappointing at times, which is very detrimental to the learning advancement of the children. The missed opportunity for teaching will have an accumulative effect and create gaps in the sequencing of

the learning goals. It is imperative the children attend school if they are fit and well, to ensure they reach their full potential. The governing board will continue to scrutinise attendance carefully.

The governing board has recently held a meeting in school to support Mrs Leck and the school to move forward with recommendations for the DfE's 'Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy' which is to be implemented in stages by 2050. School has already implemented many factors to support the strategy and the children and staff are very mindful of environmental issues. Our school mission statement says that 'St. Catherine's is a community in which all can grow in the knowledge and love of God, themselves and the world in which we live.' The governors will continue to support Mrs Leck and all the school staff to prepare our children for the world around us.

During the next academic year, school is due to have an inspection by the Catholic Education Department (CED). We are expecting a good outcome and have confidence regarding the catholic life of our school and the progress made by our children, thanks to the efforts and dedication of Mrs. Leck and all the staff here in St. Catherine of Siena Primary School.

The governing board will continue to fulfil our strategic role in support of school and we will encourage the continued success of school going forward.

Christine Henshall and the Governing Board.