

September 2019

Governors' Impact Statement

Academic Year 2018-2019

This year has seen a great improvement in the active involvement of governors making a positive impact on our school. In July governors answered questions relating to their individual impact and comments from the four governors who responded are included in this statement.

Governors completed the annual skills audit and any gaps were highlighted for training purposes. Governor training improves confidence in specific areas enabling more challenging questions to be asked. The Link Governor has continued to encourage attendance on training courses and she feels that "We have certainly added more depth to our knowledge, making a big impact on improving the Board's overall skills".

It is important that governors visit school and attend classrooms whilst children are learning, giving the opportunity for conversations with staff and children and thus improving knowledge and relationships. The Headteacher actively encourages governors to not just attend meetings but also acts of worship and other key stage and whole school events. Governor visits have strengthened relationships with the school and fostered trust with staff and children.

One governor felt that she "had improved her understanding of the mechanics of school life and now was seeking opportunities to encourage as well as ask more probing questions".

Our new Chair of Finance has been working closely with the School Business Manager checking various systems such as reconciliation of cash, budgets, audits etc. She commented that "Training has enabled me to have more confidence to check the robustness of the finance systems in place ensuring we are able to justify our spending decisions and budget allocations".

During the year, the Governing Board has endorsed significant investment in enhancing the core curriculum, also developing outdoor and extra-curricular learning including the provision of superb quality large scale outdoor play equipment for both key stages. Governors are all stakeholders at St Matthew's, sharing our ideas and being part of the future vision. In order to improve our communication with other stakeholders we would hope to be even more visible attending out of hour's parent's evenings.

The board of St Matthew's is fortunate to have a fantastic Headteacher who is committed to the children and her staff. She is supportive of improving governor involvement and encourages us all to come and see the school in action, raising our awareness and knowledge enabling us to make an even bigger impact next year.

Pauline Stott
Chair of Governors

HEADTEACHER - Miss K Ritchie

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