

St Matthew's C of E Primary Academy
Governors' Annual Statement
(July 2022)

My last report in 2021 concluded with the prayer that we would see light at the end of the tunnel! I'm thrilled to say the lights really are coming **on!** I am pleased we are now full members of the Cidari Multi Academy Trust, reinforcing our commitment to Christian education and continuing to work closely with the local community, together with our partner academies.

I can also report we are now returning to a new 'normal' school routine after the Covid 19 pandemic and the transition to academy working. It's been a tough time for us all, so I want to thank all you amazing people - staff, parents/carers and children for your patience and commitment over the last couple of years. We do still have some protective measures in place (air purifiers, sanitizers etc.) which we will keep for the benefit and safety of everyone.

1st February 2022 saw the completion of the academisation process. The Full Governing Board (FGB) has now become the Local Governing Committee (LGC). The three governor sub-committees Vision & Ethos, Resources and Curriculum & Standards have continued their valuable work through the remainder of this academic year, with their focus on our vision, managing resources and delivering the best possible education for all our children. This will now be the continued focus of the LGC.

A recent review of our governor responsibilities has led to the reordering and streamlining of our committee work. Cidari have taken over the financial management, relieving the Resources Committee and the new LGC will be responsible for local Vision & Strategy Standards & Quality of Education, Ethos & Worship and importantly linking with the community. The LGC will now meet each half term in place of the various termly committee meetings.

In June we had a very successful visit by the SIAMS inspector, and celebrated the outstanding spiritual work of staff, children and carers. This resulted in St Matthew's being rated by the inspector as GOOD. This is wonderful news and a real credit to all involved. The award recognises the Academy's strengths in Christian teaching, worship and living out our vision.

Visiting school since the building work started has meant entry through the Delaware Street playgrounds to the temporary reception office. Hopefully by the end of 2022 visitors will be able to use the newly rebuilt New Hall Lane entrance with a larger, secure, visitor area and reception offices. The first floor will be equipped with much needed toilet facilities and a new large first floor staff room. The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and School Business Manager will have new office facilities.

The Governors were busy through Autumn 2021 with preparations for, and transition to, academy working, during the spring and summer terms and I hope they, staff and children will be able to enjoy a well-deserved break over the summer

As the SIAMS Inspector described us, I pray we may strive to make St Matthew's a place of hope and compassion with a tangible sense of renewed purpose and excitement for the future.

We look forward to 2022/2023 as we all listen, learn, love and serve each other.

James Atkinson

"Be blessed by God, be happy and aspire to be..."