

July 2022

## Governors' Impact Statement

This last academic year has seen the school restored to a more recognisable way of operating following the disruptions of the pandemic. Significant changes to the membership and focus of the governing board have served as an opportunity to review our activities and refresh our commitment to providing constructive support. The governors are committed to realising the positive impact we can have on school life to support the best possible outcomes for children whilst supporting staff and acting as a critical friend to the Head Teacher.

We continue to audit our skills and address gaps by actively engaging with the wide range of training courses made available to us by the local authority. 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 and effectiveness".

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. We have added structure and a reporting process to our school visits, and all visits are subsequently recorded and any learning points cascaded to the leadership team and subject matter leads.

Our Finance Committee works closely with the school leadership team to monitor the financial performance of the school and ensure that projected expenditure is appropriate for the foreseen level of income.

Our Curriculum Committee works equally closely with the school leadership team to monitor the implementation of the curriculum and to understand how the school is addressing the needs of the children and obligations it has for maintaining a safe, welcoming and productive environment for them.

The Governing Board endorsed a significant investment in a superb new library facility within the school, making use of an underused space in a creative and impactful way, creating an inspiring and tranquil area which also reflects our status as a Forest School.

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 to better support all aspects of school life, enabling us to make an even bigger impact next year.

Paul Strout  
Chair of Governors

HEADTEACHER – Miss K Ritchie

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