

## **Governors Annual Statement - January 2025**

St Laurence Church Infant School has enjoyed another successful year, with our children, staff, and families continuing to flourish.

We have enriched our vision statement by incorporating a Bible verse, highlighting the strong theological foundation of our work. Our vision of “Love of learning, life and each other” is beautifully linked to 1 Corinthians 16:14: “Do all things with love.” This addition enables us to challenge ourselves in our governors’ meetings and daily interactions by asking whether our decisions, policies, and relationships have been “done with love.”

### **Academic Achievements**

Governors are extremely proud of the academic achievements of our children at the end of their time at the Infant School, which have shown a three-year upward trend. This year, our Key Stage One results have surpassed national averages in all three areas: reading, writing, and maths. Our Year One phonics screening check results are also above the national average. These outcomes reflect a strong focus on pedagogy in our staff professional development and the hard work and dedication of our fantastic classroom staff.

### **Site Improvements**

This year, the governors have ensured improvements to our school site by contributing 10% of the costs of capital works, as we are a Voluntary Aided school. Our main building priority involved replacing the roofing tiles on the gable roof of the hall, ensuring that the building remains in good condition and continues to provide a safe and secure learning environment.

In September 2024, we experienced a flash flood so extreme that it made local news, with our deputy headteacher carrying children to safety across the fast-flowing water. Carpets were flooded, and fencing in the playground was damaged. Fortunately, the water receded as quickly as it rose, and all children and staff made it home safely. The community rallied together to support us, with parents, staff, and volunteers assisting in the clean-up effort. A community fundraiser successfully covered the costs of our fence repairs.

### **Opportunities for Children’s Development**

We carefully consider the core experiences every child should have before the age of 7 and ensure these are planned into our school year. Curriculum enhancements include trips to Dodford Farm, Cadbury World, and Tamworth Castle, as well as organising for external visitors to provide workshops, such as Lego, a space dome, and a role-play village. Each term, we also offer opportunities for children to invite an adult to school to join in their learning through our “Stay and ...” sessions.

Our Wellbeing Wednesday project continues to thrive, with children participating in mixed groups across the school in free clubs, including Forest School, Construction, Cookery, BSL, and Music. A

variety of extracurricular clubs, such as Photography, Rock Band, Musical Theatre, Star French, Dance, and Sports, are available for those who wish to attend.

### **Community Engagement and Charitable Work**

Doing all things with love means showing love for others through our actions. This year, our children and staff have actively participated in various charitable initiatives, including collecting food at harvest for the B30 Foodbank, gathering gifts for children at Christmas for the Birmingham City Mission appeal, and using our Nativity Plays to raise money for Children in Need and Birmingham Children's Hospice. Most recently, we are working to raise £1,000 for Birmingham Hospice by designing and decorating a sculpture as part of the upcoming Bulls in the City trail.

We also strive to be good members of our community by collaborating with the residents of Chatham Place to help children understand how they can support people with visual impairments. Additionally, we spread joy through our Carols on the Playground performance and help bring the spirit of Christmas to the High Street with our Dixons window takeover. We are currently working towards our Eco Schools award and considering how we can contribute to the Church of England's net zero 2023 pledge.

### **Support for the School**

Our fantastic PTA continues with unwavering enthusiasm. They organise discos, competitions, and events like the Christmas Fair. Last July, we held our first-ever Colour Run, a memorable experience for the children! These activities not only raise vital funds for the school but also aim to provide life experiences for all children, ensuring that participation does not require financial contributions. This year, our fundraising efforts will go towards acquiring free-standing play items for the playground.

We are also blessed to receive support from our church friends. Sarah Vernon from St Laurence leads acts of worship with the children and has recently taken on the role of clerk for both schools' governing boards! We continue to hold termly services at St Laurence Church, supported by Ray and Sandra. During the interregnum, we are fortunate to have visiting worship leaders from other local church branches, and we are held in prayer by a group of parents and friends of both schools who meet monthly.

### **Conclusion**

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the support and love surrounding our school from our staff, parents, church, and wider community. We look forward to another year of exciting opportunities, including the potential joining of Fioretti MAT, and to continued growth, flourishing, and doing all things with love.