



Ainderby Steeple Church of England Primary School
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Chair of Governors Report 2018

It is nearly the end of the academic year and I would like to take this opportunity to update you, the parents and carers of our children, of the activities of the Governing Board for the last twelve months. The last year has seen a number of successes for the Governing Board as well as some things which, despite our best estimates, did not go according to plan. However, I am very pleased to report that we end the year on a high note.

Over the last few years the Governing Board has introduced a number of initiatives to make the school more appealing to existing and new families. Last year we introduced the before and after school club. The club has continued to be an asset for the school and has proven to be very popular with children and parents alike.

In the last academic year, the Governors were also informed that the pre-school was intending to close. The pre-school has for many years attracted families to the school who may have otherwise not come. The Governing Board agreed it was important for the long-term future of both the school and the pre-school that we take action to preserve the pre-school service. As a result, we transformed our schools service provision to include children aged 2-11 years of age.

The school was significantly extended 2 years ago with the introduction of the new classroom for Reception and Year 1 children. The extension was only possible due to an approach from the Local Authority seeking to increase the school's capacity as a result of the development work planned in the village and the lack of spaces in nearby schools.

The Governing Board undertook consultation regarding the potential increase in school numbers as a result of these developments and staffing was agreed based on our best predictions of likely growth over the next twelve months. Unfortunately, the significant increase in housing within the village has not resulted in an increase in children attending our school. Another factor is that our Year 6 class is the largest cohort in the school and we will lose 21 children at the end of this year, with only 8 new children coming into the school. These changes have had a significant impact on the school's budget and introduced a deficit for 2018/2019 which the Governors has sought to close. The financial situation has resulted in the Governing Board having to make some very difficult decisions regarding school expenditure and staffing for 2018/2019. At the beginning of this year we initiated redundancy procedures to reduce the number of teachers within the school. This was a very difficult time for staff and I would like to thank everyone for continuing to show professionalism in what we recognise was a very stressful time for them personally. During the process Mr Hodgson elected to take voluntary redundancy and I would like to personally thank him for his hard work, dedication over the years and all his contributions in making our school what it is today. He has



played an important part in the lives of all the children who have attended the school and he will be missed by everyone.

Earlier in 2017 the Governing Board committed to converting from being a local authority maintained school to join the Dales Academy Trust. This conversion was originally scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2018; however, due to the deficit in the budget we were not able to join the academy when planned. The Governing Board is still committed to joining the Dales Academy Trust, and I am confident that through the work of the Governors and staff to close the deficit this will still be possible.

This year also marks a historic event for the school as it approaches its 50th anniversary. A task group consisting of governors, staff and Friends of Ainderby Steeple School planned an event which took place on 18 July 2018.

A few weeks ago, we also had an inspection from Ofsted, the regulatory body for schools. All staff were engaged with the inspection and worked incredibly hard to demonstrate the effectiveness of the school. Members of the Governing Board also met with the Ofsted inspector and I am delighted to report that the school received an overall effectiveness rating of good across all areas which includes leadership and management, teaching and assessment, personal development, outcomes for children and early years provision. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and professionalism during the Ofsted inspection.

The end of academic years normally results in a number of changes for the school and this year is certainly no different. At the end of this term, two of our governors Alison Galvin, our Vice-Chair and Ben Townsend will be ending their terms of office. I would like to thank them for their years of dedication and the skills they have brought to the Governing Board. I would also like to welcome Helen Brown, Rebecca Peacock and Shawn Costello who have volunteered to be our new parent and co-opted governors.

As a final note I would like to wish all of our departing children and families the best of luck for their futures and hope they have enjoyed their time at our school. As we end another year I would also like to look forward to the future and welcome our new children and families to the school. Thank you for your time, have a lovely summer holiday and on behalf of all the Governors, we will see you in September.

Yours sincerely

Haydn Rees Jones
Chair of Governors