

St Matthew's Church of England Primary School

Governors' Annual report to Parents/Carers 2024-2025

The governing body at St. Matthews is made up of a group of people who have a variety of skills and experience. We work effectively as a team to support our school and community, to communicate the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school. As governors, we have a strategic role; we are not involved in the day to day running of the school.

Governors returned to school in September 2024 ready to continue to meet as a board throughout the year, rather than in committees. This has been a very successful approach as continuity between meetings, and a variety of opinions and experiences has led to more informed and timely decision making. We welcomed 2 new governors this year, Mr Iboki Ekwa (Parent Governor) and Ms Sally Amaegbe (Foundation Governor) and for the first time in years, we now have a full Governing Body.

A large part of our work this year has been around the decision to open Nursery provision at the school. This took many meetings and discussions as we debated the benefits and challenges around this. It has long been something the school and governing body have wished to do, so we thank Mrs Harris, Mrs Halil and Ms Kanaris for the extraordinary amount of time and effort they have given to this project. It has not been easy for them, but we are so pleased that the school can now provide Nursery places from September 2025 and will follow this initiative closely. Governors have continued to visit their link subject leaders in school to see how the phonics, science, art, design technology, Modern Foreign Languages and computing schemes of work have been implemented, whilst continuing to monitor the progress in the English, Maths, PE, PHSE, Music and RE areas of the curriculum. Staff have also attended governors' meetings to outline their work as subject leaders and answer questions on progress and the way forward.

Governors with responsibilities for Special Needs, Finance, Pupil Premium, Health and Safety and Safeguarding visited school as usual to speak to the school staff responsible for these areas. At other times, governors visited assemblies, school church services, the Nativity, the Christmas, Easter and Summer fairs (on a very hot day!) and sports days where there were opportunities to meet parents and discuss their views and hopes for the school.

Meeting and speaking with parents is a very important part of our role - your views and opinions are very useful to hear, so if you see a governor at a school event, please come and have a word with us.

Governors have also made good use of the training opportunities offered, both face to face and online as we need to constantly update our knowledge. This year we will all attend courses in the New OFSTED Framework, Safeguarding, Cyber security and other areas.

Governors were also involved in the interviews for Support staff, welcoming Mrs F Khan, Mrs Y Goodspeed and Ms Z Haynes who take up their posts in September 2025. We are also delighted to welcome Ms L Kena who takes up a teaching position in Year 3 from September 2025.

The Co-Chairs have continued to meet Mrs Harris regularly throughout the year and a small Finance group of governors was set up to meet the headteacher termly. The financial situation in most schools is something governors are spending an increasing amount of time discussing and monitoring and this is especially true in a one form entry school like St. Matthews. The budget is scrutinised very carefully, and sometimes difficult decisions must be made. Both the governing body and staff are determined to shield the children from this situation as much as possible and are as committed as ever to giving the children the best educational and school experiences as we can.

During the year ahead, governors will continue to monitor the objectives in the School Improvement Plan, maintain links with subject leaders to develop curriculum areas, monitor the budget and how the Pupil Premium and P. E. and Sports Premium is spent, track attainment and children's progress, check attendance and ensure we deliver all of our statutory safeguarding duties.

We are ever grateful to the staff team at St. Matthews whose dedication to the school and children have a huge impact of so many children's lives and make the school the unique family environment that gives St Matthews its deserved excellent reputation. Thank you too to all you supportive parents who continue to contribute in so many ways, investing your time, working with the staff who teach your children and helping the school move forward to become even better.

Deborah Dykins and Amanda Mc Intyre Co- Chairs

On behalf of St Matthew's Church of England Primary School Governing Body