



*'Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.'* Micah 6:8 (b)

## **Annual Governance Report 2024–2025**

I am delighted to share my annual report with you, after another year when our school continues to improve implementing our school vision and mission creating a caring environment where our pupils can thrive and develop their full potential.

The children and staff remain at the forefront of our decisions as we endeavour to provide the best educational and emotionally safe environment for them. To help us with this, we use training and our School visits to monitor learning within the school. This guides the Governing Body to support further as necessary.

### **Governor membership**

The instrument of government allows for 12 governors across different categories.

The current membership is 10 governors with two vacancies.

Chair of Governors: Nick Wright

Vice Chair: Dinah Papworth

Clerk: Helen Andrews

The full board of governors has met six times this year. As well as meeting as a full governing body, there are two committees, in order to ensure sufficient oversight, support and accountability towards areas of identified school improvement priorities and statutory coverage.

The school names these committees as: Finance, Personnel, Health and Safety and Learning and Standards.

All groups have a continued oversight of the school safeguarding responsibilities and manage updates of the school policies aligned to particular areas of responsibility.

In addition to the above, the school also constitutes a pay committee and headteacher performance management panel annually.

On behalf of the governors, I would like to thank you all for your support during the academic year.

As Chair of Governors, I am confident that I have a dedicated board, all of whom are passionate about our school and committed to providing the best opportunities for our pupils to flourish. The Governors support and challenge the school in equal measures and ensures agreed actions are met.

We ensure that there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

We hold our school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.

We oversee the school financial performance and ensure its money is well spent.

### **Christian ethos**

The falling birth rate continues to affect pupil numbers within the catchment area. However, we uphold the long-standing tradition of Church of England schools of not only providing an excellent education but also opening a doorway through which children and families without church background can experience the richness of the Christian faith. We aim to offer a school where every child feels they belong and can flourish. We have been able to attract children from neighbouring catchment areas to keep pupil numbers high.

We were particularly proud how well the school adapted to the arrival of nine migrant children from the Bar Hill hotel. They arrived during the Autumn term with English as a second language and settled seamlessly into school life.

### **Finance**

The Finance, Personnel and Health and Safety committee have provided financial oversight by reviewing monthly cost reports and a draft 2025-2026 school budget in accordance with the SFVS document. They have reviewed various Staff Well-Being surveys, carried out our own Staff Well-Being survey and evaluated the results.

The H&S Governor reviews the LA H&S Checklist termly with the Headteacher and Premises Manager.

### **Teaching and Learning**

This year The Learning and Standards Committee has helped to raise standards in the school by:

- Ensuring that there is a breadth of curriculum for all children.
- Analysing data throughout the school and helping to identify areas of strength and areas of challenge.
- Ensuring that all policies which relate to L and S are up to date, compliant with current legislation and relevant to our school.
- Keeping a check on the well-being of all staff and pupils.
- Discussing the School Development Plan and monitoring this during Governor visits.
- Looking at Ofsted and SIAMS requirements to ensure we are moving the school forward in the most positive and constructive way.

## **Results**

### **Early Years (Reception)**

Good Level of Development (GLD) 56%    **National 68%**

### **Year 1 Phonics**

School: 50%    **National 80%**

### **Year 2 Phonics retake – 6 children**

School: 67% (4/6)    **National 80%**

During the SATS this year, the children were supported emotionally and pastorally and were able to achieve great results. It is important to us to hear about the progress of individual children and how they were supported to achieve their own individual potential no matter what level ascertained. It was a testament to the hard work of our staff and the ambition of our pupils.

### **Year 6 SATs results and writing outcomes 2025 for 23 children**

#### **Children who have achieved Age Related Expectations in Year 6**

Reading: 83%    **National 75%**

Writing (Teacher Assessment): 78%    **National 72%**

Maths: 83%    **National 74%**

RWM combined: 74%    **National 62%**

#### **Children who have achieved Above Age Related Expectations (Greater depth) in Year 6**

Reading: 48%    **National 33%**

Writing (Teacher Assessment): 13%    **National 13%**

Maths: 35%    **National 26%**

RWM combined: 13%    **National 8%**

## **Monitoring**

The board was able to carry out its strategic role of monitoring, evaluating and updating our policies. The committees fulfilled their responsibilities and reported back to the full governing board. We continued to oversee the setting of goals and targets in the school development plan, ensuring that the financial resources are robustly sufficient to meet the targets. In addition to ensuring that a supportive but rigorous system for implementing the curriculum was in place, we followed staff development, how the buildings and site are

maintained, Health and safety, the provision for extracurricular activities and the " Den" after school and breakfast club.

We continue to support the work of school together in our strategic role by:

- Ensuring peoples enjoy school, feel valued and are part of the school community
- Following our school vision, mission and strategic direction
- Ensuring pupil attainment is monitored and maximised
- Overseeing and setting a robust school budget
- Ensuring staff well-being is supported
- Approving policies
- Safeguarding

By carrying out our strategic monitoring role, the board are enabling our outstanding headteacher to focus on the management of the school.

### **Training**

Much of our work centres on the school's development plan. We regularly review our roles and experience knowledge and skills we individually bring to the Governing Body, ensuring there are no gaps that could affect efficient governance of the school. We attend training offered by the local authority and the diocese and other training through online training portals.

We access local authority clerking service which provides excellent advice when required.

The board thanks the Local Authority and the Ely Diocese for their ongoing advice and support.

We are grateful to the PTA for the fantastic support they give the school in terms of fundraising, popular and successful social events, resources, time and commitment. Their efforts help to build the community spirit of the school welcoming and embracing new families each year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas Wright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N' and a trailing flourish.

Nick Wright

Chair of Governors