



St Philip Westbrook
C of E Aided Primary School

St Philip's Centre
District Centre
Westbrook
Warrington
WA5 8UE

Mrs J Wightman
Headteacher

Tel: 01925 445391

20th March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach Easter I take this opportunity to update you on the recent work of the governing body here at St Philip's with a few core items of our work and the impact we have made on behalf of all children at the school.

Curriculum

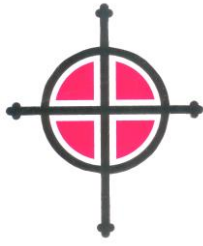
As a governing body we wanted to be able to ensure the depth and breadth of curriculum for all pupils across the school to enable every child to achieve their best possible outcomes. To do so we considered 8 points to evaluate curriculum, these are:

1. Does the curriculum meet the statutory requirements?
2. Is the school curriculum customised to capitalise on the experiences and backgrounds of pupils as well as give the relevant experiences?
3. Does the curriculum support the culture and climate of the school?
4. Does the curriculum give sufficient balance to both academic and personal development?
5. Does the curriculum provide suitable breadth of opportunities for the pupils?
6. Does the curriculum provide spiritual, moral, social and cultural education, including promotion of British Values?
7. Is the curriculum organised effectively to support pupils growing in their depth of understanding?
8. Does the curriculum engage pupils' interest?

To address these points the governing body has undertaken a broad package of work, including:

- Learning walks to every class in school to see how a broad and balanced curriculum is being delivered and to gain pupil voice on their learning,
- Supporting and strategizing an entire re-write of the curriculum maps for each year group, which the Senior leadership Team (SLT) and staff have ably done. These are all available to view on the school website on <http://stphilipwestbrook.co.uk/curriculum/curriculum-maps/> and are well worth looking at to support your child's learning.
- Attending and observing the School Council Meeting and conducting a learning walk to look at the promotion of British Values throughout the school.
- Meeting as a Curriculum Committee to review data, results and strategies moving forward. This has included reviews of work across the year groups.

After conducting all of the above activities it is the view of the governing body that every child at St Philip's has access to a broad, balanced, rich and engaging curriculum across the school. As one governor stated "*the visit provided enough evidence to show that the curriculum maps are being followed at both KS1 and KS2 levels. I believe that the school curriculum meets statutory requirements across all of the school years. It is customised to capitalise on the experiences and backgrounds of pupils as well as give the relevant experiences. Although each year have the same curriculum, the teaching is adapted for each class in the year to be relevant to that particular class's needs at that time. The curriculum supports the culture and climate of the school. The values of the school are clear to see all around, whether it is on display as a mural or art/literature work done by the pupils and most definitely by how they conduct themselves. The value of St Phillip's curriculum is almost a self-fulfilling prophecy. The curriculum gives the opportunity for sufficient balance between both academic and*



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personal development. The school is keen to develop 'individuals' so that they are not just trained to pass tests, but make a real contribution to society. The curriculum provides suitable breadth of opportunities for the pupils. This is evidenced in the range of topics covered on the curriculum maps. The curriculum provides spiritual, moral, social and cultural education, including promotion of British values. These are part of the fabric of the school and again can be seen all around, evidenced both by the work on display and pupils' behaviour. A very positive aspect of the visit was how engaged children were in lessons. There will obviously be areas of the curriculum that prove challenging to stimulate and engage pupils, but based on observational evidence, St Philip's has a positive attitude to work through these with the children and keep them motivated."

Another governor states "The school council operates very effectively and provides a forum for the students to have an input into matters the students feel are important to them. The meetings are well controlled and documented and each member has an opportunity to air their views. There is good evidence of pupils from each year being knowledgeable of British Values, as displayed in various art works on the corridor walls... At the end of the meeting Mrs Deakin invited the Governors to ask any questions and they asked the council about British Values, which members of the council answered well and showed they had a good understanding of them. This was exemplified by the way the meeting was conducted in that there was a tolerance and mutual respect among members for the opinions of others and following the rules of the meeting. All members showed an excellent level of maturity in how they conducted and expressed themselves and they articulated their points extremely well."

My thanks to all governors involved in this robust, valuable and lengthy review of curriculum across the school.

Pupil Premium

A group of governors carried out a full review with the two Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) recently to look through strategies, outcomes and intervention provision mapping for pupils and the Pupil Premium Strategy overall. During this we looked at the planned Pupil Premium spending and what impact this has had on the pupils. There are currently 37 Pupil Premium pupils at school, which equates to roughly 8% of the school and the main aim of Pupil Premium funding is to close the gap or diminish the difference in attainment between pupil groups. The current strategy for St Philip's can be found on the school website <http://stphilipwestbrook.co.uk/parent-information/pupil-premium/>

We found that:

- Overall as a group in Key Stage 2 Pupil Premium children are now performing better as a group than non-Pupil Premium pupils and in Key Stage 1 the current percentages of Pupil Premium children on track to achieve Age Related Expectations (ARE) or Greater Depth (GD) in reading, writing and maths is improving.
- Pupil Premium funding has enabled the purchase of further iPads for children to support their learning through planned activities using apps that can progress their learning, children are also receiving regular intervention support through independent and group work, which also includes other children who would benefit from further support, raising attainment for the Pupil Premium child and other children with the same needs and allowing more social interaction in groups.
- Resources are very good and sufficient and an audit on staff training needs is being undertaken by the Inclusion Team, along with a Parent Review for all those eligible for Pupil Premium funding.



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Library

Governors continue to monitor the library as it approaches completion. As governors approved this funding and initiated the idea of the formation of a library during early and formative building work planning sessions it is important to see and measure its impact. A governor recently visited the library when in use by a class and spoke to the staff and pupils and concluded *"the school library appears to have been well researched and planned, with input from both teachers and pupils. The provisions appear to take into consideration the needs of all concerned to enhance the schools learning resources for the benefit of its pupils. When completed and operational, the library will have the potential to be a valuable tool to inspire, encourage, engage and enrich all concerned"*

In addition to everything detailed above the Governing Body has also completed an Equality Audit, Effectiveness of Governing Body Review, overseen two Admission panels, carried out an SEN Review, a Safeguarding Review, a Financial Review, a collective worship review and attended several training courses to enable us to carry out our duties to even more impact. The Curriculum Committee meet regularly and the Resources Committee have recently reviewed the Budget for the remainder of the school year and reviewed and adopted over 10 Policies for school. It's been a busy but successful term! I take this opportunity to welcome three new governors to the team – Mrs Christine Marsland, Mrs Lindsey Savage and Mrs Katie Nuttall, with my thanks to them for their willingness to enable the governing body and school move even further in their strategies and my thanks to all those already on the governing body who do so much to enable a cohesive and active governing body at the school.

As always in closing I want to focus on the children themselves, who every time we attend school display exceptional behaviour and manners and a keenness and willingness to learn that makes what we as governors volunteer to do worthwhile. My thanks to all staff and pupils for their extremely hard work this first quarter of 2018... as the school motto says "Together we aim high and with God's love we can fly".

With best wishes for a peaceful and Happy Easter,

Kate Strickland-Wright
Chair of Governors