



St John's Church of England Primary School

Finding the light in ourselves and each other

Inspired by the Gospel according to John (chapter 8, verse 12)

Governors' welcome to St John's Church of England Primary School.

Thank you for your interest in the school – be that as a parent, prospective parent, prospective member of staff or just a wider member of the community.

As we start the 2022/23 academic year, we hope for a year that remains undisrupted. The past three academic years have seen the pandemic intrude to a greater or lesser degree. We were so pleased that we finished the last academic year by retuning to a more normal set of circumstances not just in terms of the classroom but in those other things that are an essential part of school life – the Church services, the school plays, the celebration assemblies and the school trips.

Throughout the past few years, the whole staff team have been tremendous in supporting the children and we pay tribute to their dedication in both academic and pastoral matters. We also take this opportunity to thank the parent community for all their support – and in particular the Friends of St John's, Digswell who not only have raised much needed funds for the school but nurtured a strong sense of community.

Over the past year as a Governing body, we reviewed our strategic aims for the school and the full document can be found under the school's mission statement - <https://stjohnsdigswell.net/mission-statement/> but I think it is worth repeating our ethos here as it exemplifies the way in which view our own roles as Governors. It also underpins learning behaviours, our approach and our Golden Rules.

We want to nurture a school community where each child feels safe, respected, valued and known. A community in which each member supports one another on the journey of discovery and learning,

We believe that children fulfil their potential in a stimulating, supportive and inclusive environment. We will encourage all of our children whatever their ability, to be the best that they can be. We will foster the development of an enquiring attitude towards learning and encourage children to be reflective, resilient and responsible. The endeavours of all children are valued, and achievements are celebrated and shared.

We will provide an inspiring Christian environment in which our values are evident in all aspects of the school, and we promote spiritual and moral growth. We encourage all in our community to treat one another with kindness and consideration and support our neighbours near and far, valuing our strong links with St. John's Church and others in our community.

In this spirit we set out our strategic priorities to:

- Support all our children to reach their own full potential
- Develop globally responsible citizens who are prepared to contribute to the changing world around them
- Provide effective and committed leadership
- Maintain and enhance our physical environment and facilities to provide the best learning experience for our children



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As a Governing body we were also pleased to get back to meeting in person and also conducting school visits. It is by far the most rewarding part of the role to see the school in action and interact with the children.

Last year, we simplified our committee structure to better use the resources available and now have two with a clear focus – Resources and Quality of Education. These meet termly alongside the full Governing body which meet 4-5 times per year. As part of our role, we continue to review policies and procedures to ensure that these are fit for purpose and meet not only our legal responsibilities but also our vision and aims for the school and our pupils. The children and staff remain at the forefront of our decisions as we endeavour to provide the best educational environment for them.

We continue to closely monitor the school budget to ensure the school can cope with reduced funding and rising costs. This is a constant challenge, and the pandemic is still giving more challenges in relation to managing the budget, but we strive to ensure that staffing levels and resources have not suffered as a result. This means that the children's learning and development will continue to be of the highest standard.

We have high aspirations and monitor and evaluate progress by assessment, planning, doing and reviewing what we do to inform school improvement. We also keep a close eye on attendance and punctuality which were particularly impacted by the pandemic.

We value our role as a Church school and the connection to the wider community that those links can provide. Christian values strongly influenced the development of our strategy, and we take pride in the participation of our children at several services throughout the year as well as being part of the wider community.

Whatever your interest in our school, we hope that this website offers an introduction and the information you need.

Nick Johnson, Chair of Governors
October 2022