



Dear Members of the School Community,

We have so much to celebrate as a School community. Once again this year, we would like to start this letter with a huge **thank you** to all those who support the school in whatever way – staff, our children, volunteer helpers and activity leaders, PTA organisers, ambassadors, and those who engage in the school's community events and sustain our caring and supportive community with strong links to the Parish.

Your governing body wishes to provide you with an update on its work through last summer and this term as well as to wish you all a joyful holiday season.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

Best wishes,

**Your Governing Body**

**Foundation governors:**

Sue Berti (Chair of Standards Committee)  
Felicity Chapman  
Sylvia Clifford (Foundation Stage)  
Kari Gordon (Vice Chair of the Full Governing Body)  
Jennifer Hill (SEND)  
Father Kevin Hooper (RE)  
Colin Macdougall (Safeguarding)  
Yvonne Salter Wright (Chair of the Full Governing Body)  
Mike Swinburne (Chair of Resources Committee)

**Parent governors:**

Richard Staveley (Health & Safety)  
Alvin Tan (IT)  
Gary Travers (Governor Engagement and Training)

**Staff governors:**

Mrs Lesley Ritchie (Head teacher)  
Helen Scott (Deputy Head teacher)

**Role of Your Governing Body and the School Improvement and Development Plan:**

*Our strong ethos and values being developed and enhanced*

The core functions of your governing body are: Maintaining the Catholic vision and character of the School; Setting the strategic direction and vision for the School; Holding the school's leadership to account; and Ensuring financial probity. These are supplemented by a range of statutory accountabilities.

Informed by the strategy and planning session held early in the Autumn Term and significant reflection and review between governors and the senior leadership team, the following key priorities, in addition to a number of focus areas, were agreed within the School Improvement and Development Plan (SIDP):

- Improve outcomes in Writing and GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) particularly for the most able and disadvantaged pupils.
- Embed key skills from core subjects into the broader curriculum ensuring creative coverage of the National Curriculum.
- Develop leadership at all levels to ensure accountability by Senior and Middle leaders for all pupil performance and progress.
- Further develop and embed the use of Catholic Virtues and Values as a way to ensure that education involves both the body and the heart.

**Retaining high ambitions for our children: work of the Standards Committee to continue to ensure progress and development of each child**

The Standards Committee met in October when they reviewed end of year pupil outcomes for 2017 in great detail. Discussions included an analysis of pupil outcomes at the end of the Foundation Stage, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. Attainment is generally above the national average and a significant percentage of pupils are working above the expected standard in all year groups. Progress across Key Stage Two was in line with national expectations and standards in maths are improving across the school. Governors thanked the staff for their continued hard work and commitment which supports our pupils' learning and development. Governors gained further insight at this meeting into the makeup of our school community. We are very fortunate that it is enriched by children who arrive with us from different cultures and communities giving our school a real international dimension. Mrs Ritchie explained how new pupils and their families are welcomed into school and shared the induction process which supports their integration into St Augustine's. Additionally, members of the Standards Committee have made a number of visits to school this term which help us to understand the work of the school in greater depth and contribute to its strategic development.



**School to School Partnerships:**  
*Becoming 'academy ready' and engaging with potential partners*

Last Autumn, the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service published guidance for Catholic schools and are now actively working with all Diocesan schools to progress their becoming part of a Multi-Academy Company (MAC) in order to secure, protect and improve Catholic education (see <http://www.bdes.org.uk/latest-news.html> ). Your governors and School leadership team continue to be engaged actively with our partners about what this means for us and how best we can ensure St Augustine's retains its strong community ethos while taking advantage of the significant opportunities that can be accessed through formal partnerships with other Catholic schools. We have continued to liaise with our partner schools in central Warwickshire (Warwick, Leamington, Rugby, Princethorpe) and also growing our partnerships and knowledge about those a bit further south in Alcester, Stratford-Upon-Avon and vicinity. As we said previously, any future formal proposals to become an academy will be consulted upon and discussed with the school community.

In addition to our work with other Catholic schools, we value our partnerships with other local schools within our Kenilworth cluster over recent years and would wish this constructive engagements to continue; however, all Diocesan schools are only permitted to formally join in academy partnerships with other Catholic schools. If you would like to know more about this or have any queries, please do contact Yvonne Salter Wright.

**School Financial Position and Security:**  
*School continues to have a sound financial position and resilience in a challenging environment*

Through prudent financial planning, St Augustine's remains in a sustainable financial position, particularly relative to benchmarking against other schools, though current projections do slip into deficit over time. The Resources Committee will continue to closely monitor the budgetary position, ensuring, however, that we make strategic investments in a timely fashion to support school improvement. There are substantive changes to the per pupil funding that the School will receive in the future through the changes to the National Funding Formula (NFF) and we are hoping these amendments will be positive for our School as it is projected for most Warwickshire schools. If you are interested in learning more about this, there is substantive information on the gov.uk webpage; there is also a summary of the context and implications of the NFF published by PTA UK (see <https://www.pta.org.uk/For-Parents/Understanding-education/The-proposed-new-national-funding-formula---a-handy-guide> )

The Resources Committee doesn't only make determinations in relation to investment of the school's financial resources, but also ensures proper health and safety and security protocols and policies are in place. On 8 December we were visited by an adviser from Warwickshire County Council who undertook with us a security audit considering a range of factors from safes and burglar alarms to data security, disaster recovery and business continuity to make sure we can keep our children safe and keep learning and development progressing (we expect a formal report in the new year). The fantastic work already carried out in relation to our '360 degree safe' online safety mark has positively contributed to our safe environment. There are of course a number of areas identified for improvement and these will be progressed by the senior management team working with your governing body.

**New and Refreshed Community Events:**  
*Fun community events, supporting progress within the curriculum*

Thanks to the fantastic skills and commitment of a range of volunteers, there has been a refreshed programme of PTA events this year – including the addition of a new Reading Festival where the children's writing was published in our very own KS1 and KS2 books. Not only do events raise much needed funds for school and our children's enrichment but they are an opportunity for a greater range of members of our community to get engaged and further develop our fantastic community spirit!



**Questionnaire Results:**  
*Continually taking action in response to feedback received*

Your Governors work with Mrs Ritchie, Miss Scott and the rest of the leadership team in School to ensure the feedback received through questionnaires and other means is reviewed and actions taken to resolve the issues raised. Your views and suggestions are extremely valued. While Mrs Ritchie (and indeed your governors where appropriate) are pleased to receive your views, do please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance if there is a specific matter which you would like to discuss in relation to your son or daughter. While we would hope to resolve as many matters as possible informally, the School's new Complaints Policy can be found on our website if needed.

You may not know that parental feedback in relation to schools is published on the Ofsted Parentview website: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> If you could take a few minutes, go onto the website and complete the survey for our School (URN: **125713** or you can search St Augustine's Catholic Primary, Hollis Lane, Kenilworth).

*We live, love and learn together in the light of the life of Christ.*