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LULWORTH AND WINFRITH PRIMARY SCHOOL ANNUAL GOVERNORS' REPORT – 2019/20

This report provides an overview of school progress in the academic year 2019/20. It would routinely be produced early in the autumn term, however this year it has been delayed by wider events.

The overriding issue has understandably been the Covid pandemic. The School has dealt admirably with this unprecedented situation. The Headteacher has led the School through a significant period of uncertainty, challenge and change. Government policy guidelines, risk assessment and safety measures amidst health and safety concerns relating to Covid 19 have been implemented effectively, reviewed and supported by external specialists, staff and governors. During Lockdown Free School Meals were delivered to qualifying families on a weekly basis, and regular contact maintained with all our vulnerable families. The summer survey of parents' views garnered overall positive feedback on the School's educational and pastoral provision during the period of school shutdown. Remote learning and phased return to physical teaching for pupils' transitions worked well, thanks to the devotion of the staff to their work and their pupils. However the School remains conscious that its ability to utilise IT more fully is an area for future development.

As part of our school improvement planning, we identified 5 Key Priorities going into the year 2019/20. Although there have been no formal assessments this year or national comparison, we have made the following progress and improvements:

Key Priority 1: To improve standards of achievement and progress in mathematics. Teachers have focused on ensuring challenge is appropriate in mathematics across attainment levels, including providing booster groups and problem-solving opportunities in KS2. Our internal results show very positive progress: the number of children achieving the expected standard (EXS) has increased from 60% to 83%, and the number of children achieving greater depth of understanding (GDS) has increased from 0% to 25%.

Key Priority 2: To raise expectations and improve outcomes for more able learners in all year groups. Improvements have been made in this area throughout KS1 and KS2. In Year 6 performance and attainment at GDS has improved in all subjects, indicating very positive progress in this key area.



Belief

Fellowship

Harmony

Key Priority 3: To improve the quality and impact of leadership, and to ensure that Middle Leaders' and Governors' evaluations impact school performance effectively. A new senior leadership structure has been put in place. Link Governor roles have been tightened and the Governing Body are now receiving more detailed and informative reports from relevant Link Governors. Curriculum provision, timetables and progression of skills have all been reviewed and improved by subject leaders within the School.

Key Priority 4: To improve the quality and depth of the wider curriculum to ensure that a broad, balanced and creative curriculum is delivered. New strategies and the appointment of a wider curriculum leader have been effective in driving this improvement forward. Curriculum documents and curriculum planning have been reviewed in line with new expectations, and developments for curriculum resources on the website are in progress.

Key Priority 5: To develop strategies to ensure that high expectations and standards of behaviour for learning are maintained. Staff have reviewed progress against this, and monitoring shows that standards of behaviour are high and that the revised school learning values have had a positive impact – this was also reflected through external school reviews.

Looking to academic year 2020/21, since the beginning of the autumn term, we have had excellent attendance figures, and staff are managing the inevitable gaps caused by pupils' absence from school, while still addressing targets set in the School Development Plan. Addressing the impact of the pandemic on pupils will be a key focus for governors.

Another unsurprising outcome of the pandemic has been the additional cost of making the School a safe environment in a completely new way. Governors are working with the School to help manage this new burden on the budget. On a more positive note, we are pleased to welcome two new Governors this term who have volunteered significant skills to the Governing Body. And we remain keen to recruit new members to the governing body – it is a fulfilling role that directly supports our community.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Halina Simpson, our Foundation Governor, who sadly died this year. She had brought immense dedication to the governing body and had swiftly made a marked contribution to the spiritual and practical life of the School. She will be much missed.

If you have any questions for the governors on this report, or any other matters, we would be delighted to field them – please submit them to the Clerk to the Governing Body clerk@lulworthwinfrith.dorset.sch.uk.



Lieutenant Colonel Tom Jefford
Chair of Governors