

## Chairs Report 2020 – 2021

I am proud on behalf of our Governing Board to present our annual report to our stakeholders as part of our commitment to keeping you informed about the work of the Governing Board and the school as a whole. We hope you find this report of interest and would welcome any questions or comments you may have.



The roles and responsibilities of our Board are clearly explained on the school [website](#), and I would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- Our Headteacher **Miss Keen**, Deputy Head Teacher **Mrs Cunliffe** and **all** staff for their trust, guidance and support of the role and functions of our Governing Board.
- School Business Manager, and previous Clerk to the Governing Board **Mrs Catherine Hawkesworth** for her hard work, commitment and professionalism in support of the school and our Board in particular.
- **School Ambassadors and all pupils**, who have acting as guides and inspiration whenever we are privileged to visit and attend the school in our varied roles.
- **Parents, carers and guardians** who have kindly provided much appreciated views, opinions and support.
- **Members of the local authority** for providing often bespoke and much appreciated guidance and support.
- **Reverend Shaun Morris** for kindly agreeing and being nominated to continue in his valued roles for another three years on our Board.
- **All Governing Board members** who unselfishly commit many hours of their own time and personal energy, skills, professionalism and expertise for no rewards, other than the satisfaction of seeing our pupils 'shine' and playing integral roles in the strategic development of our school.

## What have been some of Priory's successes in 2019-2020?

There can be no doubts, that as a result of the terrible COVID-19 virus, 2020 has been one of the most challenging years in our country's history, which has certainly been the case with regard to our school.

No two days have been the same and it is clearly apparent that it will be a while before we enjoy what we used to take for granted as 'normal'.

Despite such challenges and uncertainty, it is so rewarding to be in a position to share and celebrate a number of the school's wonderful 'successes' over the last year, which include:

- **Ofsted's 'GOOD SCHOOL' recognition** of our school's fantastic team aided by wonderful community support and partnership working. In the words of the Ofsted Inspector:

*"The school is well led. Leadership skills at all levels are developed through a system of coaching and support for staff. Staff work together for the benefit of all".*

*"Pupils are proud of their school and learn a lot. They get on well with each other and with staff. They talk to visitors in a mature and confident way. Behaviour around the school is excellent".*

*“Parents and carers say good things about the school. They are particularly pleased with the way pupils play and interact with each other around the school”.*

- **Achieving Healthy Schools Award** – so timely and important!
- **Achieving Primary Science Quality Mark** – [http://www.prioryceprimary.org.uk/?page\\_id=9919](http://www.prioryceprimary.org.uk/?page_id=9919)
- **Supporting other schools** with coaching, SEMH and SEND provision - all part of the school's Mental Health Award – placing our school as a beacon of 'good practice and valued knowledge'.
- **Our school's amazing responses to the terrible COVID-19 virus**, which has included:
  - Opening our school to the children of our amazing key workers, such as NHS staff, care home staff, emergency workers and many others, so they could remain at work, supporting our wider community in so many important ways.
  - Supported by pupils, parents, carers, guardians, the local authority and other key stakeholders, the gallant efforts of **all** our staff in re-opening our school to all, with such diligence, professionalism, care and support for everyone.
  - The roles of pupils, parents, carers, guardians and visitors for their tolerance and understanding in adapting to new policies and procedures; and the too many to list acts of human kindness and support to our committed staff.
- **The role of Friends of Priory School (FOPS):**
  - Impressively raising around **£5,500.00**, which paid for the amazing kitchen in the school's innovative Learning Zone.
  - Hiring a circus to perform at school, which all families clearly enjoyed.
  - A 5p challenge where classes 'battled' to fill their bottle first.
  - Daffodils grown by the team and sold as Mother's Day gifts.
  - During the pandemic fundraising continued with for example a virtual balloon race.
  - Regular fundraising continues through the selling of school uniforms.

### **What is Priory Governing Board focusing on in 2020 - 2021?**

COVID – 19 may in the immediate term change school life as we have known it for now, but with faith and continuation of an ethos of friendship, trust and the delivery of community values, we are confident that our school will continue to shine under a rainbow of achievement and joy for each child, parent, guardian, teacher, member of staff and Governors.

The school's vision and values are what make Priory the welcoming and excellent school it is. The unique way they are implemented and upheld and woven into school life add to the quality of the environment.

We are therefore looking to build on the faith, resilience and the energy of our precious 'school community' to move forward with positivity, with **key priorities** that include:

- The continued safe return and well-being of all staff and pupils to Priory to full-time education, and ways in which we can support staff in helping bridge the gaps in pupil's learning, as well as address any SEMH concerns that may arise as a result of extended times away from school.
- Addressing areas for improvement identified in our recent 'GOOD SCHOOL' Ofsted report.
- Working with stakeholders to explore and implement innovative collaborations and partnerships with members of our wider community, which will include sponsorship packages, fundraising and entrepreneurial school and community based opportunities and activities.

### **In conclusion**

On behalf of our Governing Board we would like to thank **everyone** who has played a part in making our school the success it is.

We are proud to be a part of our school and recognise that we are here to serve and support our pupils, staff, parents, carers and guardians.

We have no doubts about the challenges ahead both in the immediate and longer terms and believe that such are best met with faith, love, trust, compassion, patience and understanding by all.

**Edwin Lewis**

**Chair of Governors**

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