



Governors' Annual Report

Lighthouse Federation



2021/22, an important year in the history of Happisburgh and St Mary's schools. For Governors, it has been a time of learning from each other as members from both school communities have enjoyed working together as a Federation Governing Body whilst also recognising the distinctiveness of each school. Nearly all our meetings have been in person but we have continued to make use of virtual meetings for planning.

We have been pleased to see that Federation has resulted in an increase and variety of opportunities for the children with sports, visits, Y6 residential, and staff too have benefitted from career development opportunities particularly in Curriculum Development. Governors have taken advantage of financial opportunities available for resources and opportunities across two schools.

The 3 core strategic functions of Lighthouse governing board are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction,
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of Lighthouse Federation and its pupils,
- Overseeing the financial performance of Lighthouse Federation and making sure money is well spent.

Governance arrangements:

Lighthouse Federation Governing Board is made up of 2 staff governors (including the Headteacher) 1 Parent Governor, 1 Local Authority, and 8 Foundation Governors. During the year we have welcomed Rev Catherine Dobson as an Associate Governor. There is one Parent Governor vacancy. We have Governors responsible for Safeguarding, SEND, Health and Safety, Data Protection.

This year the full Governing Board has had eight meetings and we also have committees to consider different aspects of both schools in more detail and report back to the full Governing Body: Teaching and Learning, Resources, and Ethos and Community - focusing on the ways that Christian values are at the heart of all that happens at Happisburgh and St Mary's schools. Venues have alternated between the two schools.

Thank you to all parents/carers and pupils who responded to the annual questionnaire which governors have discussed. In both schools there is good support for the leadership and management of the schools. There are always ways in which we can improve and next term there will be new and different opportunities for you to find out what the children are learning about and also looking at the most effective way of communicating with parents/carers.

Attendance Record of Governors

The board has a good attendance record – details on the school web-site.

Teaching and Learning Committee has discussed the development of the curriculum and ways in which it provides integrated opportunities for pupils.

- i) to learn and develop ideas over the primary years
- ii) to develop socially
- iii) to contribute to school life and the wider community.

We have been impressed by the work of curriculum coordinators, under the Headteacher's leadership, who have developed and resourced the federation curriculum. Support for learning is effective – well suited to individuals. With the lifting of Covid restrictions we have welcomed the return of the varied extra-curricular activities.

Resources Committee has been pleased to extend and enhance curriculum resources to support fully all curriculum areas including ICT- every child has access to technology when necessary. When the opportunity arises we consider possible benefits of staff working on both sites. We have considered proposals and financial implications for the future maintenance and development of both school sites.

Ethos and Community Committee has spent time visiting the teaching and communal areas. We observed, in both schools, how Christian values, chosen in each school by children, staff and parents, can be seen in the classrooms and the daily life of the schools and how the Prayer Space days were much enjoyed at both schools. This information has helped governors to contribute to the process of development and preparation for Church Schools Inspections.

St Mary's Encourage, Aspire and Flourish has been a continual reminder of how St Mary's is special. The number on roll has continued to increase, expected to be 92 in September, the school is a popular choice for Roughton parents and others in the local area.

The new classroom was eventually dedicated - it is a real asset to the school the pupils and staff in Beech class are really enjoying learning in their new environment. Everyone appreciated the visit of the Bishop of Norwich to dedicate the building – he certainly enjoyed the children's musical contribution to the ceremony. The Willow room is proving very successful in enabling pupils of all ages to access 1:1 and small group support. Our plans to integrate Acorns as part of St Mary's are ongoing.

Whilst we are delighted that St Mary's is a popular choice for parents, we are very conscious that our hall is inadequate - the PE curriculum is limited, it is necessary to use classrooms at lunchtimes and it is impossible for the whole school to meet together.

Happisburgh Learning for Life ... be the best you can be.

The school remains a popular choice for parents of Happisburgh and the surrounding area, however our number on roll will decrease slightly due to a large Y6 who leave this year.

We were pleased that the Ofsted inspector noted the children's enthusiasm for school and observed the school values in their daily life. Whilst the overall grade was disappointing, we are pleased to see the success of the new Phonics programme and the continued staff commitment to the success of the school.

The visit of the graffiti artist was much enjoyed by all and the lasting result of the painted wall is a snapshot of the children of 2022. Thanks to all who have contributed to the preliminary work to create the sensory garden.

School Communities

It is always sad to say good-bye when people move on but both schools have welcomed new members of staff and the talents and interests which they have brought to the federation.

At Happisburgh and St Mary's we value tremendously the contribution of The Friends: their sustained involvement in the life of the school and their successful fund raising contributes greatly to a variety of learning opportunities for our children and is very much appreciated. Sincere thanks to these groups.

We would also like to thank parents, family members and carers for all the help and support so readily given to all our children to maintain good communication with school, their friends and their learning.

At St Mary's we recognise and thank the Robert Brown Trust for the continued commitment and involvement in supporting the school – again this year to fund the ukulele sessions for Y3/4.

Governors believe there is a great staff team and numerous volunteers at the school, superbly led by our Headteacher Miss Jackson, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their hard work and dedication throughout another challenging year.

Future plans

During the year both schools have had opportunities to work on joint projects with other schools in this area of North Norfolk. With the introduction of the new RSE curriculum (Relationships and Sex Education), the Diocese of Norwich coordinated an art project in order to promote the concept of diversity. Each school taking part has created works of art which celebrate diversity and these will be on display in St Peter Mancroft church in Norwich during the Summer holidays.

This activity has benefitted children and staff as they have contributed together to the project. Governors recognise the value of these projects and we are pleased that this collaboration will continue next year. We will continue to look for opportunities to support all staff in career development. Premises development and maintenance projects for both schools are being considered – for Happisburgh to improve EY outdoor area and St Mary's the need for a new hall.

How you can contact the governing board

We do welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents - please contact the Co-Chairs of Governors via the school offices. You can see a full list of governors, minutes of meetings and more information on the governors' page of the schools' websites.

Thank you for your continued support for Happisburgh and St Mary's and we do wish everyone an enjoyable summer break.