

## Chair Statement September 2023

Looking back over the past twelve months, one of the highlights for me was attending the School Summer Fayre this year. The weather just about held up and it was fantastic to see the school community coming together through the great efforts of the PTA to provide a fun day with the added bonus of raising funds for the whole school. I believe this event shows our children the benefits of giving and working together for a common cause, whilst enjoying ourselves at the same time. My thanks go to everyone involved.

As a governing body, we have responsibility for the oversight and direction of the school including safeguarding, pupil progress and school finance, all underpinned by the important central Christian ethos of Catherington. We have a broad, experienced governing body, including parent governors and of course Mrs Burden as our headteacher. My fellow governors have wide experience, including backgrounds in senior management positions, the church diocese, safeguarding, people management and finance.

We have reviewed the pupil progress results from the last academic year and have been really pleased to see our school performing above both National and Hampshire averages for Year R, phonics in both Year 1 & 2 as well as Maths and Writing in Year 2.

Mrs Burden has advised us of her key priorities for this year which form the focus of the school plan. The Governing Body has been pleased to support this plan, after testing that it was suitably ambitious. This year the school is aiming to refine our curriculum by developing improved assessment so that it supports the needs of all of our pupils. Our second priority is within the Early Years environment to promote our ambitious curriculum and particularly focus on the writing skills of our Year R. Also, the staff are looking at how we can provide parents with the skills and support they need to help their children thrive through the school. The governors will be monitoring progress of these key areas throughout the year.

We remain hugely grateful for the continuing support of parents and carers in the various ways they continue to help our school and support the learning of the children which clearly feeds into the results that we see.

I would like to express my thanks personally and on behalf of the governors to the headteacher and staff for their continuing hard work this year. It is a pleasure to see the progress of the children and the huge benefits they gain from high quality teaching, our continuing strong relationship with the Church and the support of our whole school community.

As always, the Governing Body welcome feedback and comments at any time and can be contacted via the school office.

Paul Main