

ST AIDAN'S
Voluntary Controlled
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Governors' school report 2017/18

St Aidan's is a school at the heart of our local community. Whilst funding challenges continue alongside changes in education policy and inspection, St Aidan's remains a vibrant and forward-looking school where staff know every child and their families. The combination of the engagement and support we get from parents/carers, the wider community and the unstinting commitment and energy of the staff team, mean the school continues to flourish, even against this background.

This Governors' report outlines some of the work that the St Aidan's Governing Body has done over the last year and the impact it has had. I would like to extend my thanks to all members of the Governing Body who give their time, expertise and energy to ensure that St Aidan's strives to deliver the best possible outcomes for every child.

I hope you find this report interesting and that it helps to increase your knowledge of what goes on at St Aidan's.

Helen Froggatt
Chair of Governors
November 2018

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1 Our successes this year

Details of St Aidan's successes can be seen throughout this report. A few highlights include:

- fitting out of the Learning Bus – logo designed by children;
- new interactive screens in all classes and new oven, thanks to PSA;
- expansion of the library – new books in every class;
- new chef manager, new menus and family service in KS1;
- Water Only school;
- 3 LSAs trained to support children's emotional development
- choir sang at Royal Albert Hall and Finsbury Park Festival;
- cashless school;
- twinned with primary school in France;
- letter from Bishop of Edmonton following our outstanding SIAMS inspection;
- Sam Hatfield winning the Haringey's Community Hero award;
- strong SATS results.

2 How the governors contribute to the leadership of the school

The role of the Governor is that of supporting, advising, observing and challenging. The St Aidan's Governing Body meets six times a year and each Governor also sits on at least one committee. For effective management the Governing Body is split into three committees; Standards, dealing with teaching and learning; Resources, in charge of finance and site issues; Care and Communication, concerned with improving communications and the health/wellbeing of the children and staff. A team of Governors responsible for the religious character of the school also meets to review this aspect of provision to pupils.

- The Standards Committee helped to set priorities for the academic year; regularly reviewed pupil progress and performance and was involved in appointing new members of staff.
- The Resources Committee worked to set the budget for 2017/18 and was pleased to be able to deliver improvements to the site and facilities in the face of ongoing financial challenges in the education sector.
- The Care and Communication Committee was responsible for conducting the annual parents' survey and following up some of the suggestions made. It was also responsible for embedding the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and reviewing numerous school policies.
- Alongside their various committee responsibilities, our two Church Governors lead religious assemblies and supported the Leadership team through our SIAMS inspection, where we retained our outstanding grade.
- Each class teacher and governor have lead responsibility for a particular area of the curriculum and link up at least once a year so that governors can find out more about the curriculum and the way it is taught. Governors also take part in Learning Walks led by the Headteacher to get a feel of how the school runs day by day.

We have continued our Governor Surgeries, to give parents and carers the opportunity to meet Governors and raise questions or issues that are important to them.

3 What we are trying to improve

Each year we set priorities as part of our School Improvement Plan (SIP) and these are kept under regular review by the Governing Body. During 2017/18 the key priorities were:

1. Create effective partnerships



- Develop an effective moderation model with Stroud Green Primary School.
 - Be an effective lead school in our SPP cluster.
 - Twin with a primary school in Livry Gargan, France.
 - Develop links with ITT institutions and offer opportunities for teacher training.
2. Further develop the curriculum for pupils at St Aidan's
 - Teach Maths Mastery effectively from Reception to Year 5.
 - Develop the use of the school library.
 - Achieve anti-bullying accreditation.
 - Embed Forest Schools into our curriculum.
 - Ensure interactive screens enhance teaching.
 - Introduce the Accelerated Reader programme.
 3. Improve school meals
 - New chef manager and kitchen team working effectively to ensure high standards.
 - Update our kitchen equipment.
 - Introduce family service for our EY and KS1 pupils.
 4. Ensure our school environment is fit for purpose and maintained to a high standard
 - Further develop eco ideas working towards our Eco Schools Green Flag.
 - Convert our Learning Bus to accommodate intervention groups.
 5. Ensure all end of Key Stage measures are above national standards with the aim of being in line with the London Top Quartile

4 Our SATs results

At the end of Year 6, children sit tests in reading, maths and grammar , punctuation and spelling (GPS). These tests are set and marked externally. Writing is assessed by the child's teacher rather than being assessed by a test.

Subject	St Aidan's		National	
	Working at (or above) expected standard	Working above expected standards	Working at (or above) expected standard	Working above expected standards
Reading	97%	35%	75%	28%
Writing	90%	31%	78%	20%
Maths	83%	21%	76%	24%
Combined reading, writing, maths	79%	17%	64%	10%
GPS	93%	35%	78%	34%

When comparing figures it should be noted that, because St Aidan's is a small school, each child contributes approximately 3% to the total result.

5 How we ensure every child has appropriate teaching

To ensure that every child receives quality teaching, senior teachers and advisors scrutinise teachers' lesson plans, look at children's books, observe teachers in action and ask children individually to talk about samples of their written work.

- This year, the Accelerated Reader scheme, which helps teachers recommend books for children to read, has raised children's motivation; and the Power of Reading scheme has helped teachers use high quality texts to raise the standard of children's writing.



- Teachers monitor every child's progress and attainments in reading, writing, maths and science throughout the year, helped by a software and support programme called Target Tracker.
- Additionally, at the end of each academic year, for those children who are not in Y2 and Y6 – so not taking SATs – the school uses standardised tests to compare the performance of pupils with other children of a similar age across the UK.
- Some children need additional support, sometimes in small groups, sometimes individually. There is a range of interventions which vary according to children's age, needs and progress and each is monitored to ensure that it is having a positive impact.
- Many children with special educational needs have Pupil Profiles drawn up by the inclusion manager, Learning Support Assistants (LSA), the children themselves and their parents. These describe in general terms what they can do, what they find difficult, and what support works for them. They also have Learning Support Plans (LSPs) that are reviewed termly with their parents, staff and the inclusion manager. Those with significant long-term needs may have statutory Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).
- Nationally, the progress of children receiving free school meals is not as good as those who do not. Schools receive additional money known as the Pupil Premium (PP), to close the gap. Additional money is also available for children in Care and adopted children (PP+). The progress of all these children, their levels of attainment and the use of this funding are all carefully monitored by senior management and governors at St Aidan's. Most of the PP is used to provide additional support for learning but some is also used to provide free places in after-school clubs and to ensure that all children attend school trips, including, in Y6, Pendarren.
- The More Able register identifies children performing particularly well at a subject level but also those with talents in other areas such as music and sport. Provision for these children is delivered in two ways: through differentiated teaching in class to ensure the work challenges them; and through opportunities for enriched learning. Outside school, opportunities include participation in inter-school competitions (eg maths, debating, sport); sports, like gymnastics, athletics and cycling; and trips to the theatre. In school opportunities include extension maths for Y5 and 6, and free lessons to learn to play a musical instrument.

6 How we are working with parents and the community

We keep our parents informed about what happens at the school and with their children via the school website, email, text, the Headlines fortnightly newsletter, class blogs, school notice boards, curriculum evenings and twice yearly parent consultations. There are numerous examples throughout this report of how the school involves parents and the wider community to enhance our children's experience. Below are some others.

- We have a very active PSA which this year hosted a sport themed Summer Fair, the Christmas Fair, a 'French café' morning, a quiz evening and, in collaboration with the school, the very popular fireworks' night celebration. The parents persuaded over 30 local businesses to sponsor the school in various ways.
- Parents continue to support the school in many ways, for example by offering their time in the school garden; as reading volunteers; running a netball club; as marshalls in the Stapleton Hall Play street session, and by sharing their individual skills e.g. during language morning and of course continuing our daily dose of Sanjuro from ex St Aidan's parents!
- Our pupils, parents, teachers and governors were involved in the winter night shelter run at Holy Innocents Church, Hornsey. Children made up beds for guests and adults



prepared breakfasts. Gifts from the Harvest festival were taken to the Night Shelter and Holy Trinity Food Bank.

- Our choir performed at a concert at Holy Trinity church in aid of MIND and in Finsbury Park as part of a local festival.
- Parents and members of the community contributed to our first Faith Week by speaking to classes and supporting assemblies, and a Lunchtime Bible Club is run weekly by pastoral assistants.
- A continuing popular programme is the Arsenal Double Club where pupils in Years 5 and 6 split time after school between working on literacy and receiving football coaching. Some very lucky pupils had the opportunity to play on the pitch at the Emirates Stadium.
- Thursday Together Luncheon Club is held in the hall next to the school and two children from Red Class attend weekly with Ms Banfield to meet and play board games with local senior citizens.
- Fathers' morning for Red and Orange Class dads to participate in class-based activities with the children.
- Parents also participated in the Clean Air Miles project (part of the Eco theme).

7 Changes we have made following pupil feedback

We have a long established School Council, run by the children with help from the staff, which we feel is a valuable way for the children to work to improve their school. Two children from each of the Years 1 to 6 are chosen as representatives and changed every year. Minutes from the meetings are shared with the rest of the school and published in Headlines. In 2017/18 the School Council

- worked to develop our school meals offer helping to improve the quality of school lunches.
- took a lead on our anti-bullying work and led Anti-bullying week in November, making a significant contribution to us being awarded a Gold award which, in its turn, contributed to us gaining recognition as a Gold All Together school.

The All Together programme is a whole school anti-bullying programme for schools in England. An All Together school is one that has been recognised for its work to reduce bullying and improve its pupil wellbeing over a period of time. The programme is funded by the Department for Education and delivered by the Anti-Bullying Alliance with support from Achievement for All, Contact and the Council for Disabled Children.

8 How we ensure our pupils are healthy, safe and well supported

Our school has been recognised as a healthy one having been awarded the Silver Healthy Schools Award.

All staff and governors are vetted and trained in child protection and safeguarding.

- Regular assessments are carried out to ensure that the school is safe.
- Older children, including some with special educational needs, are trained as playground buddies to befriend others, and to resolve any conflicts.
- The school has achieved the Gold Award for its travel plan, which included considering air quality and the benefits of walking to school.
- Sports have continued to thrive this year thanks to the dedicated Sports Premium and its enthusiastic implementation by Nicola Sykes. It was used to train staff across the school in a wide range of PE activities including dance, gymnastics and various games.
- Children can participate in a range of after school sports activities.
- All children from Years 1 to 6 take part in Sanjuro, a non-contact martial art, at the start of the school day each week.



- KS2 children participated in gymnastics, athletics, cross country and cycling competitions against other Haringey schools.

9 The activities and options available to pupils

St Aidan's is committed to giving children access to a wide range of activities and clubs. Over the last year these have included football, choir, gymnastics, multi-sports, drumming, chess, gardening, coding club and netball. Delivering a rich curriculum to pupils is a key focus at St Aidan's. Below are just some of the examples of what children have been involved in.

- Music of all sorts! The choir, under Tessa Padel's stewardship, has performed at the Royal Albert Hall, the Wigmore Hall, the Haringey Festival in Finsbury Park, Holy Trinity Church, the MIND centre as well as numerous concerts at school.
- Pupils in Year 4, and selected members of Year 5, enjoyed free whole-class music tuition in either the trumpet or clarinet through the Haringey Music Service and performed at concerts to demonstrate their progress. Some of our most talented players also performed with Haringey music groups at Haringey Go Wild in the Royal Albert Hall.
- Year 6 delighted audiences with their end of school production of Alice in Wonderland.
- Foreign language teaching continues to thrive at St Aidan's. There are weekly French lessons for Years 1 to 6, Mandarin in Year 4 (through a partnership with St Mary Magdalene Academy) and even some Latin for Year 5 as part of the Classics for All programme.
- French day was held in July and included a French café, a French lunch menu and French playground games.
- During the annual Languages Day, visitors and parents shared some of the many languages spoken by pupils at the school, including Arabic, Dutch, Greek, Welsh, Icelandic, German and Russian!
- Year 5 pupils enjoyed their trip to Paris for an exciting day of sightseeing and, of course, crepes – always a highlight!
- Pupils from Year 6 organised the St Aidan's talent show, where children from across the school signed up to sing, dance, play and show off their sporting skills.
- In January, Year 6 pupils had a cold but fantastic 5-day residential trip to Pendarren in Wales, involving mountain walking, canoeing, high ropes, caving and bush craft.
- In June, St Aidan's participated in the Crouch End Festival again. This year the theme was 'Imagine' and it was wonderful to see so much of St Aidan's amazing artwork displayed.
- St Aidan's has participated in a wide range of inter-school competitions over the year including: a Haringey cross-country running event; a Robotics competition and a poetry event at Greig City Academy; a chess tournament at Olympia; a Junior Citizens event and the Haringey STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) showcase.
- London has also provided many enriching opportunities for St Aidan's pupils this year including visits to: the Barbican Centre; LSO St Luke's; the British Museum; the Jewish Museum; the British Library; St Paul's Cathedral; the Transport Museum; Hampstead Heath; the British Film Institute; the Natural History Museum; Westminster Abbey; City Farm; the Phoenix Centre; the Tower of London and some tree-top fun at Go Ape!

10 How we ensure our school is sustainable

St Aidan's aims to embed environmentally friendly and sustainable practices across all areas of school life, as set out in our Sustainable Procurement and Sustainable School policies. We have an Eco-team comprising 12 children volunteers as well as staff members, which meets every half



term. They agreed three areas of focus for the year: Waste, Plastic, and Air Pollution. These were reflected in lessons, as well as stand-out activities to raise awareness.

- 5 days' worth of plastic waste from the school community was piled into a Plastic Mountain to demonstrate the extent of the plastic waste problem.
- UCL students visited the school to work with year 6 monitoring air pollution.
- Eco communication was via termly eco-assemblies, Headlines and the eco noticeboards, with a call to action: 'Be Eco-Cool at home and school'.
- Gardening club is an opportunity for children to learn about food production, reducing food waste, composting, pollinators and habitats.
- All classes planted and grew 'picnic food' in the school garden.
- The school has maintained the 'Gold Standard' sustainable travel award from TFL.

11 What our pupils do after leaving St Aidan's

Year 6 children are well prepared for transition to their secondary schools. Time is spent talking through any anxieties, role-playing possible scenarios and helping them prepare for the changes to come, like following a timetable and finding their way around large buildings. During June, staff from some secondary schools in Haringey visit St Aidan's and some children then visit a Secondary School for a 'taster' day. The 29 pupils who left St Aidan's at the end of Year 6 in 2018 got places at the following secondary schools:

Haringey maintained schools	
Alexandra Park School	3
Fortismere School	1
Greig City Academy	1
Highgate Wood School	7
Hornsey School for Girls	1
Other schools	
Arts and Media School, Islington	4
Camden School for Girls	1
Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School	1
Forest School	1
Friern Barnet School	1
JcoSS	1
The Latymer School	3
Mary Magdalene	3
Skinner's Academy	1