



# St. Nicolas C of E Primary School

Navigate – Inspire – Challenge – Succeed

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Headteacher: Mr A Spooner

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17 July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Annual Governance Statement of the Governing Body 2024-25

As the Governing Body of St Nicolas CE Primary School, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the past year. Our role as Governors is to provide strategic oversight, oversee financial performance, and support and challenge to the school leadership to ensure the best outcomes for all pupils. We work closely with the Headteacher and senior leadership team to monitor progress, uphold the school's values, and contribute to its long-term development.

The three main objectives from the 2024–25 School Development Plan were:

1. To improve the standard of **handwriting and spelling** for all pupils to ensure a greater number of children are achieving the expected standard in writing by the end of the academic year.
2. To enhance and adapt the **school's universal offer** to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of all learners inside and outside the classroom so that all pupils thrive and make accelerated progress particularly in literacy and maths
3. To continue to monitor **persistent absence** and ensure that any families of concern are communicated to support and challenge in order to see significantly improved attendance.

We have been monitoring progress in these three areas over the course of the year as well as ensuring that the school vision to see all pupils "live life to the full" is embedded across all that we do – inside and outside the classroom. This has been particularly evident through the ongoing implementation of the "NICS Approach": Navigate, Inspire, Challenge, Succeed. In addition, we have continued to focus on developing a culture of high school attendance and have seen the impact of prioritising effective strategies to support families resulting in a 94.9% whole school attendance this year.

Alongside this, we are continuing to monitor staff wellbeing. The majority of our community share our appreciation for our staff team and the amazing job they do. However, we have been disappointed by the ongoing verbal abuse that a small minority have directed towards our staff team, which is not acceptable.

## Celebrating Success

**SIAMS:** the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools inspection took place on 27 September 2024 and was an opportunity to highlight the impact that the school's Christian vision has on enabling the whole school community to flourish, regardless of faith or background. The [findings](#) reflect our positive values, inclusive ethos, and high expectations where everyone is valued as an individual. We are so proud of the school and everyone who is a part of our wonderful community.

**Sporting Success:** We're delighted that so many pupils have had the opportunity to compete in sports competitions through the Abingdon Partnership of Schools (including cricket, cross-country, tag rugby, athletics, football, netball, tennis, and boccia).

**Performances:** The middle year's play, *Mystery at Magpie Manor*, was a wonderful showcase of talent, creativity, and teamwork. The play served as a wonderful reminder of the importance of the arts in education. We were also very impressed by the summer concert at which over 100 pupils performed – it was a sensational morning. Well done to everyone who took part.

**SNSA:** we would also like to thank the SNSA for their hard work in building the school community particularly through their ongoing commitment to annual events such as the fireworks and Summer Fair, together with the second-hand uniform shop.

We would also like to celebrate:

- **Outstanding KS2 SATS results** which reflected the incredible hard work of pupils and teachers in Year 6: reading 90% (2024: 86%), writing 71% (2024: 68%), and maths 87% (2024: 86%)
- Ongoing provision of a wide range of **after school clubs** and additional activities promoting inclusivity, run voluntarily by our staff team
- The continued success of the **Abingdon Week** project in Term 6 including the Y1 bus trip to Marcham the R-Y2 school bun throwing.
- **Positive relationships** between staff, pupils, and families, as well as strong relationships between pupils of different year groups enhanced by the Y6 Reception buddies programme.

All these achievements reflect the hard work of our dedicated staff and the continued support from our parent and carer community. Thank you.

### Looking Ahead

From our monitoring of progress against our School Development Plan this year, and the feedback from the Parents' and Carers' Survey, our 2025-26 priorities include:

- Continuing to focus on developing **writing skills** for all pupils building on the work done this year on handwriting and spelling
- Ensuring that every child continues to receive a **high-quality, inclusive education** that is tailored to their individual needs
- Focussing on opportunities for **wonder and awe** in line with the recommendations from our SIAMS inspection

We will also continue to promote and support **good attendance** and engagement across the school as well as continuing to support development and well-being. And of course, our biggest change will be in welcoming 3-year-olds into our school community and the new experiences this will bring for all of us with the **new Nursery provision**.

### Staying In Touch

We always want to ensure that we remain accessible and transparent and so we welcome feedback from parents and carers (please see the separate letter with the outcomes of our recent parents' and carers' survey). We are also looking to recruit new governors in the coming months—if you're interested in getting involved, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Chair of Governors, Mrs Katrina Hancock, via email ([cgov3247@st-nicolas.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:cgov3247@st-nicolas.oxon.sch.uk)) or the School Office in term time.

### **Governor Roles**

This year we said thank you to the Reverend Paul Smith who has now stepped down as Foundation Governor. We also said thank you to Katrin Nolland who served as Vice Chair this year and to Gemma Wilson who takes on this responsibility in the year ahead. We are also delighted to welcome Anna McCleary as a co-opted Governor who will take on responsibility as our SEND Governor.

Details of Governor's including short biographies, responsibilities, terms, and attendance can be found on the [school website](#) together with meeting minutes.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can ensure that St Nic's continues to thrive as a happy, safe, and high achieving school.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Hancock', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Katrina Hancock  
Chair of Governors