

## Cranborne Middle School Governors report 2020-2021

Little did I think when I wrote last year's report, that the pandemic would cause continuing further severe problems throughout the last year. The school went into lockdown again in January 2021, and the staff and school were well prepared. Having provided a comprehensive scheme of work during the first lockdown, this was refined and improved during the second lockdown. As before the school remained open for children with extra needs and those of key workers, and numbers gradually rose during the partial closure from 41 at the start to 70 by the end.

At the start of the summer term the children returned, but had to remain in strict bubbles throughout the day including lunch and play times. We are fortunate to have a large site so that this could be achieved, but for the children it was not 'normal school', though it was still good for children to receive face to face learning, and socialise again, even if it was within constraints. Extra support was provided from 'Covid Catch up' funding for those who showed signs of falling behind.

Key stage 2 SATS were undertaken, but were teacher-assessed, not published and comparisons with other schools were not permitted.

In September 2020 Dr Sandi Malpas was re-elected as Chair of Governors and Mrs Anna McElwaine as Vice Chair. Unfortunately Mr Ian Beckett who had been elected as Parent Governor, and Mr Wren Hooper who was appointed as Associate Governor at the start of 2019 had to resign due to work commitments. Mrs Rosemary Tong, who has a lot of experience as an OFSTED inspector and as Assistant Director of Children's Services in Southampton, has joined the FGB as an Associate Governor., and will become a Co-opted Governor when a place becomes available in Autumn 2021. She will join the Curriculum and Assessment Committee and The Head Teacher Performance Management Committee, and will take over responsibility as Subject Governor for Maths in Autumn 2021. She will be a tremendous asset to the school.

A small group of governors worked with the SLT to consider our Mission Statement and re-state our Vision and Values, which continue to be based around Resilience, Respect, Aspiration and Diversity. From this our Strategic Priorities were consolidated and the Key Performance Indicators drawn up that would measure our success. A full transcript of this can be found on our website.

The Safeguarding Audit was completed and submitted to the Local Authority and no further actions were required.

Sadly, we have said goodbye to some very valued staff, who have moved on in their careers to other opportunities. The staffing has been re-structured to cover the gaps that have been left, and to ensure that the high standard of teaching at CMS is maintained.

During the summer holidays of 2021 a significant amount of work took place around the school. As part of our commitment to be a greener school, every light has been changed to LED, more insulation has been installed in the flat roofs, and an air source heat pump and solar panels are eagerly awaited. The school pond has been renovated and planting is continuing.

The financial position of the school remains positive, and decisions were taken by the governors and SLT during the year to ensure that this continues in the coming years.

We would love to see our pupil numbers rise again, but the low numbers in our feeder schools due to a low local birth rate, and the lack of new building in our AONB, plus our geographical position on the edge of a different school system in Hampshire conspire against us. Although the videos produced by the school were much appreciated by prospective parents, the inability to hold an Open Day also meant that prospective parents and children could not experience the famous friendly and open atmosphere of the school. New flyers were produced and circulated to all local First Schools, and to estate agents in neighbouring towns, and we anticipate a rise in numbers next year.

Some of our **priorities for the coming year** include continuing with actions that could not be completed in the previous year due to the pandemic.

We aim to

- enhance links with our feeder and upper schools, and increase collaboration with West Moors Middle School.

- ensure the new behaviour policy is consistently embedded throughout the school.

- monitor the improvement in provision for the spiritual development of our pupils in addition to maintaining their moral and social understanding.

- monitor the improvement in the reading age of pupils, and the accuracy of spelling across all subjects.

- ensure the improvement in SEND provision, so that it is directly related to the starting points of specific SEND pupils and their needs.
- ensure the celebration of the success of pupils in any area, to include study, art, sport and music.
- monitor the wellbeing of staff.
- promote the school throughout the extended community.
- ensure governors undertake regular on-line training.

We intend to help the school to re-group and consolidate after a very difficult couple of academic years, building strong partnerships, learning with and from others as we challenge ourselves to reach new heights.

Dr Sandi Malpas  
Chair of Governors

September 2021