

Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019

SJBC has had a year of steady and impressive progress.

Our greatest achievement has been to be graded as Outstanding in our recent Section 48 Inspection. The Governors are delighted with the progress that has been made in the RE department and our Catholic Ethos is the heart of everything we do so it was particularly rewarding to be graded as Outstanding.

The school has made steady progress with good exam results and a positive (+0.32) progress 8 score. We continue to aim for better than average progress for our students.

The summary from the Resources committee outlines our continued effort to manage our deficit budget and as student numbers continue to rise the financial constraints will improve.

The school organised its first ever Ski trip which was a resounding success, continued our international associations with trips for students to India and Italy.

The Governors supported the school to open our Devereux unit – a resource base for students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder or Social Communication Disorder as a prime need and have complex mental health needs. This necessitated some minor building works. The students came to school in October and all did well. Next year this base unit will be full (8 students) and we are proud to offer a facility in a mainstream school where students who may not have been coming to school at all are now thriving.

There have been organisational changes to the leadership structure and changes to the support staff structure to allow for appraisal and progression. The school made a number of good staff appointments during the year and we are fully staffed for the 2019-2020 school year.

The school has begun to offer Music again and our musical life is once more a key part of the life at school. The Governors aim to continue enhancing the curriculum as funds allow.

Please see the summaries from our three core sub-committees.

Resources

We have had a very productive and successful year in the Resources Committee

Our key aim was to get the schools financial situation into a much better place and have a clear plan towards removing our deficit.

In headline terms we made in year savings of £470,000 against what we had budgeted to spend in the last financial year.

This was achieved by a combination of activities:

We have worked collaboratively with Wandsworth Borough Council to ensure that we maximised our opportunities to be financially efficient as possible. There was a re-organisation of the senior leadership team and of the administrative functions. There was some management of vacant posts, which had to be carefully balanced with the delivery of the curriculum. The marketing activities of the school also meant that the school was successful in increasing the number of students on roll and the school was very successful in attracting a healthy number of students as in year admissions. The opening of the Deveraux provision also gave us some welcome additional funding as well as extending the scope as to what the school can offer to students. We have also changed the way in which we manage the letting of space within the school outside of school hours and we are starting to see a rise in the income that this can generate for us

A number of existing contracts that we have with external suppliers have been reviewed and changed, leading to support better suited to the school and for a lower cost. We have a pipeline of further contracts that we are starting to review for this coming financial year. We have changed the supplier of our school uniform which has made the whole logistics of getting the right uniform much easier for the school and for the parents.

A significant amount of the school's time and energy has continued to be taken up with the ongoing issues with our heating and ventilation system. We have now reached a position where there will be a significant amount of remedial work taking place over the summer break and we then hope to be in a much better place to assess the next steps in finally resolving this issue. We also hope that this work will start to bring down the excessively high energy bills that we have been paying since the school opened.

We have also been successful in securing funding for the first stage in the refurbishment of the ambulatory, the covered area at the back of the playground, which will give the students some additional space during break times.

The focus for the coming year is delivering the balanced budget that we have set and continuing the work to show everyone how fabulous our school is so that our school continues to grow.

Every Child Matters Committee

The ECM Committee monitors and evaluates the performance of students across all year groups. Both the progress made by the students and the results attained are continuously assessed throughout the academic year and measured against targets set. The school's performance in public examinations of the previous academic year are scrutinised and compared against targets and teacher predictions to identify areas for improvement and to ensure accuracy of predicted data. The performance of every category of learner is scrutinised: SEND, Pupil Premium, EAL and Children Looked After to ensure that any variations from the mainstream students are identified and addressed where necessary. The committee routinely inspects the college's termly Self Evaluation (SEF) and ensures that it informs the tailoring of the School Development Plan which is used to guide the ECM committee to pay attention to specific areas of focus.

In 2018-2019 the curriculum has been a major area of focus; the committee approved the introduction of accelerated pathways for Y7 & Y10; they also approved new KS5 curriculum pathways that will cater for a broader range of student abilities with options for low, middle and higher attainers. The committee provided input to the new Ofsted statement of intent (a framework for setting out the aims of the programme of education, including the knowledge and understanding to be gained at each stage). In other areas the committee paid particular attention to the formulation of the new homework policy, challenging the senior leadership team on their expectations of pupils in this area. As stated previously the committee are responsible for scrutinising attainment data and a focus in this area was the evaluation of the work of the college in monitoring and improving the attainment and progress of disadvantaged learners. The committee gauged the success the college had in its use of the pupil premium funding in diminishing any achievement differences for this group of students. In 2018-2019 the committee members have continued to make regular visits to school, meeting with the Heads of Department and observing the quality of teaching and the behaviour for learning.

Ethos Committee

The Governors' Ethos Committee has responsibility for monitoring the quality of the Catholic life of the school and for promoting the educational ethos and approach of St John Bosco. This includes oversight of the Religious Education department and chaplaincy provision along with pastoral care, provision for looked after children, safeguarding, the spiritual, moral and personal development of pupils and issues in relation to pupil behaviour and discipline. The Committee also formulates the school's admissions policy.

The Section 48 Inspection (denominational inspection) of St John Bosco College, preparation for which was referenced in the 2017/18 report, represented the principal focus of the Committee during 2018-19. This inspection reports on the Catholic life of the college including prayer and worship and Religious Education. Meetings took place during the year involving the Link Governor for RE, the Headteacher and the Head of RE in preparation for this inspection and RE teachers were observed and feedback given to the Head of RE. The inspection took place on 21 & 22 May 2019 and the judgement of the college as OUTSTANDING in all areas reflects the outstanding commitment of Governors and staff to the

maintenance of the college's distinctive Catholic and Salesian ethos. The following comment in the report on the role of the Governing Body is particularly apposite:

The link governor carries out formal observations three times a year. He affirmed an improvement in the quality of teaching over the last three years. Governors are informed of the strategic direction of the department through the Ethos committee. As a result, the self- evaluation of Religious Education is an accurate reflection of rigorous monitoring and analysis of teaching and learning that is well informed by current practice.

Detailed statistical reports were received by the Committee so that they could review pupil attendance figures, disciplinary incidents, progress of looked after children, and fixed term and permanent exclusions in the year. It is pleasing to report that the incremental decline in the number of exclusions across the board, referenced in the report for 2017/18, continues to represent a particularly positive feature, reflecting the Catholic and Salesian ethos of the College with its emphasis on a servant leadership style approach and on supporting hard to reach students. In the context of reports reference must be made of the outstanding progress made in relation to the GCSE RE results in 2018 in comparison with the 2017 results.

In conclusion the developing interface between St John Bosco College and the Salesian community, mentioned in the last report, continues to constitute a particularly positive characteristic and has developed with significant support from several members of the Salesian community in a range of contexts including chaplaincy, ethos, spiritual formation and support for pupils with learning disabilities. Most recently a member of the Salesian community presented an engaging seminar to the Full Governing Body on Salesian ethos in a contemporary context. To conclude this report a quote from a comment on this interface from the recent Section 48 report:

The Headteacher is passionately committed to building an authentic Salesian community in partnership with the Salesian Order. He has ensured that prayer and worship are an integral part of each day and are inclusive of all pupils.

Summary

As I write this report I am delighted to see that the provisional GCSE results in August 2019 have shown continued improvement with a positive P8 score (0.4) showing that our students do better than expected.

The Governors would like to thank all the staff and students at SJBC for their hard work. We look forward to continuing development and success in 2019-2020.

Jane Hargrave JP, Chair of Governors, 4 September 2019