



Pupils enjoying the wildlife garden

In September 2014 governors presented their 5-year vision for Holy Trinity School. We are now over half way through this period so we wanted to bring parents up to speed with how our 4 key priorities have developed.

1 Excellent Quality of Teaching & Learning

Having achieved the goal of becoming an Ofsted rated Outstanding School, it can be challenging to maintain these standards. Everybody's expectations increase once a school becomes Outstanding; parents tend to demand more from the school; teachers raise the bar for themselves and their pupils; and governors ask more questions and probe deeper.

So how do we stay on our toes?

External advisors

Every school has a SIP – a school improvement partner – employed by the Local Authority to visit the school every term and evaluate its performance. The aim is to give an external and independent view.

This year's reports from our SIP confirm,

"HT continues to provide excellent education and outcomes for its pupils and strives for continual improvement across the school".

The report states,

"It was possible to see children's progress over time, for example, in writing books children's growing maturity

could be seen through longer pieces of writing being sustained, a greater range of punctuation being used and progress evident in relation to individual targets."

"In maths, written explanations of methods towards the upper end of the school supports a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts."

Internal advisors

Governors also pay regular visits to the classroom, walk around the school and attend assemblies in order to maintain an informed overview of HT.

Additionally, some governors take responsibility for an area of the curriculum such as maths, science or RE and hold termly meetings with their subject coordinator to ensure pupils are on track to meet the often ambitious attainment targets set for them individually and as a cohort.

Our maths governor reported in March,

"In all years across the school progress for the half year is "above" what would be expected." A thorough review was also given to governors of all the initiatives undertaken for pupils whose progress was not considered sufficient.



Hattie, Panda Class

Our science governor observed,

“It was great to see how well they all work together and listen to Mrs Lambert but also continually question her about the environment around them and ask bright, intuitive questions that show how well they understand what they are being taught.”

HT was particularly proud to be given a Primary Science Gold Award this year. Jane Turner, PSQM National Director said,

“Gaining a Primary Science Quality Award is a significant achievement for a school. The profile and quality of science teaching and learning in each awarded school is very high. Children are engaging with great science both in and outside the classroom, developing positive attitudes towards science as well as secure science understanding and skills.”

The proof of the pudding

One key measure, of course, of how well pupils at HT are taught and how much learning they retain is through external testing. Our very recent SATs figures show that 82% of our Year 6 pupils achieved the expected standard in all areas (writing, reading and maths). This compares very favourably with the national average of 61% and the Richmond schools' average of 76%.

82% of our Year 2 pupils achieved the expected standard in all areas (writing, reading and maths), compared with the national average of 64% and the Richmond average of 69%.

95% of our Year 1 pupils passed the phonics screening test, compared to a national pass rate of 71% and a Richmond rate of 78%.

Mrs Stride, chair of Governors, remarked, “Our sincere thanks and congratulations go to the staff for helping pupils to achieve such outstanding results. We all know that this is a team effort.”

Hatches and dispatches

So much comes down to the calibre of the teachers and staff at HT to create a happy and supportive environment for pupils, encouraging them to want to come to school and motivating them to learn once here.

This has been an exceptional year for Holy Trinity also in terms of births and marriages. We offer warmest congratulations to;

Mrs Rachel Sharp and husband Evan , who had baby Lana in December, Mr and Mrs Brown who had baby Elsie in October. Mr Alex Auton married the beautiful Sasha at Easter.

The immediate consequence of these new arrivals for governors, naturally, is the ensuing periods of maternity leave. Thanks to careful management, as the external results attest, the school has maintained robust standards and high levels of achievement.

We have also bid farewell to Mrs Ellwood who retired in October, although she continues to help out at school for two afternoons a week.



Amalka, Jaguar Class

We continue to recruit the best possible teachers, often seeking to identify talent in newly qualified practitioners who will fit in well with the HT ethos. In September, we will welcome 3 new teachers, all of whom are recently qualified, including a new Nursery teacher. We did not specifically set out to recruit NQTs, they were simply the most outstanding candidates in each case.

2 Excellent Communication for Cohesion and Consistency

Communication always arises as an area we need to improve when parents or staff are surveyed each year and cohesion and consistency are vital parts of supporting pupils' learning and progress.

Mrs Cox continues to run parent information evenings every term on a variety of topics intended to draw parents from across the school years. Subjects covered this year include 'results achieved by the school' and a tour of the classrooms to look at 'progression'. Evenings are well attended, by on average 30 parents, and are always well received.

This year saw the introduction of a 'Sharing our Learning' morning in February, parents were able to come into school for an hour to spend time with their child to look at their work with them. This morning was such a success that we are repeating it this July.

Class newsletters now all follow the same format and are issued fortnightly to parents via the class reps.

The website provides the main organ of communication for parents on school, social and fundraising matters and this is kept as up-to-date as possible. There is now the facility to pay for after-school clubs online as well as a card machine in reception to pay for school uniform.

For new and prospective parents, Mrs Cox gives parent tours of the school every week. New Reception parents are invited to a briefing about the school in the summer term before joining and several informal events for both parents and children are arranged by HT, including home visits.

Just as communication within the school improves, so does word on the street and this is most evident in our growing number of applications for places each year. We received 318 applications this year and based on parents' stated first choice preference were well over-subscribed for our two-class entry. 33 of our new Reception class in September have siblings already at HT, so that's more than a class-full already.

3 Excellent Use of Space

Holy Trinity School is at full capacity, with an extra class now moving into Year 6. So it is important to use both inside and outside space to the maximum benefit of the children's learning.

Pupils have been introduced this year to the concept of "Forest School" sessions and now have at least one lesson a term in Sheen Woods. Our teachers



Helena, Panther Class

have received training during the year so that they can teach tracking games, rope tying skills, shelter building, wood whittling and even making campfires.

We are fortunate in having so much playground space and this year we have been using 'zoning' so that different year groups can make use of the grounds simultaneously. The Junior children have access to a broad range of activities including Lego, Mobilo, block construction, drawing, Hama beads, stacking cups, chess, Loom bands, basketball, four square, trim trail, two climbing frames and play houses and table tennis.

Also outdoors is the Wildlife Garden that the Kingfisher Club children take care of. This is now incorporated into the timetable as part of the "Forest School" sessions for the Infants.

Pupils have at least one science lesson outside every half term depending on the topic they are learning about. This year, for instance, they have carried out experiments in relation to measuring wind speed, shadows and classification of plants.

In order to see these developments in action, a group of governors visited the school on a "learning walk" to see how HT was maximising their available space. It was clear that thanks to some of these new outdoor initiatives and imaginative use of shared areas inside the school, children's learning is being enhanced; having more space to spread out benefits creative work and quiet intimate spaces benefit small group work for pupils needing more individual focus.

4 Excellent Citizens of Tomorrow

Our vision is to ensure that pupils leave HT with the skills and determination to be positive citizens who take an active role in democratic modern Britain; we want them to think about what they can do to improve the lives of others and not just what they can get out of life themselves. As a Christian school, our pupils should be aware of their own spirituality and to have a knowledge and respect for those of other faiths.

Our Head Teachers' Award, at bronze, silver and gold levels, has continued to be well supported; Mr O'Sullivan has been holding regular sessions in school to help keep the children on track. Criteria are designed around objectives such as independence, good citizenship, good behaviour for learning and setting yourself high standards. HT was invited to make a presentation to other schools about the scheme and now a primary school in Kingston is running a similar award.

HT is always delighted to have pupils support others in the community. Whether it is carol singing to the elderly at Holy Trinity Church or visiting old people at an AgeUK Richmond social centre, we believe it's all part of the children's personal development and learning.

Pupils took part in a mock general election in June, encouraging them to take an interest in the world outside. The school's own JLT (Junior Leadership



Sofia, Jaguar Class

Team), meeting weekly under the keen guidance of Mr O'Sullivan, provides pupils with their first experience of democracy and opens young minds to concepts like compromise and acceptance of other pupils' or teachers' ideas.

Our co-opted community governor, who attended a JLT meeting, commented,

"It is very clear that we have a strong and robust student council that represents the children in their requests for change in the school. It was great to see the spirit of democracy in the room and all ages felt comfortable enough to speak."

Nowhere is there a better role model for Excellent Citizens of Tomorrow than in our Head Teacher, Mrs Cox, who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List for Services to Education. The pupils, their parents, the staff and the governors have taken every opportunity to celebrate this accolade and to tell Mrs Cox how proud the school community is.

Thank you to the pupils for their stunning illustrations that were entries for the annual Summer Fair programme competition.

The last word on Holy Trinity School must go to the pupils, who were asked in a recent survey by the JLT what they liked about HT. This is what they said:

"How everyone is very kind and how the teachers are very nice."

"How fun the lessons are."

"All the after-school clubs and also I like all the lessons. Following that I like seeing my friends."

"The teachers."

"How nice people are to me."

"That everyone's opinion is respected."

"Seeing my friends and going on residential trips. And the playground."

"Everyone is friends and is always happy."

"How there is a friendly environment and it creates an atmosphere where I can feel comfortable asking questions."

"Everything!"

The governors of Holy Trinity School wish our community a happy and restful summer break.