



# Twineham CofE School

*Nurture Togetherness Resilience Creativity*



*Everyone is a gift and everyone is gifted*

## GOVERNORS' REPORT 2022 – 2023

This has been another year of change and challenges at school, all leading to stronger practices with a focus on key areas for improvement, outlined in our Ofsted report.

Our School Development Plan has been revised and drawn up to cover a period to Summer 2024, in the light of our inspection, while also bringing into consideration aspects for our future Statutory Inspection Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Inspection.

Current priorities are on embedding phonics skills and developing a sequenced reading curriculum, to enable children to read with fluency and unlock the curriculum. Attendance and behaviour, Collective Worship and spirituality, a focus on sequenced learning in foundation subjects and providing a supportive and adaptive Early Years environment, are all key areas for development over the next academic year.

School life has returned to a more normal pre Covid way of life, allowing freedoms for a wider range of trips, visitors and activities, which all enrich school life and help children to “flourish” and develop their whole character. Our Parish Priest Reverend Rachel Cornish has worked hard with the Mrs. Cotton to provide a cohesive programme of Collective Worship, giving pupils the opportunity to “encounter God.” Church services for major festivals are all part of the Twineham experience.

Laura Kelsey was our part time Executive Head Teacher from April 2022 and led the staff through our ungraded Section 8 Ofsted Inspection on 17 November 2022. The Inspector’s report stated that “There has been no change to this school's overall judgement of good as a result of this ungraded (section 8) inspection. However, the evidence gathered suggests that the inspection grade might not be as high if a graded (section 5) inspection were carried out now. Inspectors are recommending the next inspection to be a graded inspection.” This will happen within the next 1 – 2 years. The staff and Laura worked tirelessly to prepare for Ofsted with a laser focus, putting children and their needs at the centre of all they did.

While the Ofsted report identified key areas for improvement that need to be addressed, the verbal feedback from both inspectors about our wonderful nurturing school, the care, provision and staff was hugely encouraging. This inspection was conducted under the new Ofsted Inspection framework, which is even more exacting than the previous one. So while

they could see the green shoots of development, we still have more to do on our school improvement journey.

A positive of an Ofsted Inspection, is that it holds everyone to account, and provides an external check in helping to highlight areas for improvement to benefit the children. These points have been the focus of and incorporated into our new School Development Plan, to inform practice and be in a good place for our future inspection.

Laura Kelsey assisted by Lizzie Cotton, provided excellent leadership and management over the whole process, which was a collaborative staff team effort, with St. Mark's staff coming in to help prepare the school and give support the evening before. We give our thanks to all involved, for their hard work and dedication to Twineham, with incredibly early starts on the Inspection day. The impact on staff should not be underestimated, all went the extra mile to present the school in a good light.

We also thank parents and children for their support at that time, completing wonderful surveys and for their continuing support and loyalty, because the school ethos is carried out into the wider community. Parents and FOTS undertake many tasks, including activities to fund raise and support the school, in addition to helping with reading or school trips, for which we are very grateful. We also acknowledge the vital role parental support plays in helping children out of school, on their learning journey, for which we thank you.

In December we said goodbye to Laura Kelsey, who returned to her full time post at St. Mark's, Staplefield, after an amazing two terms of leadership and commitment to Twineham, for which we thank her.

Lizzie Cotton became our wonderful Acting Head Teacher from January until the end of the Summer term, with the support of the whole community behind her. Strikes and risk assessments, among other factors, contributed to a challenging start to her role, which she has done with incredible strength and commitment, always going the extra mile to work out and meet children's needs, while caring for staff and being a listening ear for parents. She has played a fundamental role in accessing additional support from West Sussex leaving us in a very fortunate position.

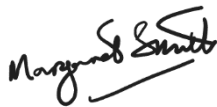
With effect from 5 June, we welcomed Sarah Davy as Consultant Head Teacher, until the end of the academic year 2024. Sarah has settled in brilliantly and this has given a good opportunity for Lizzie and Sarah to work together, to provide a seamless transition for the start of the new academic year in September. She has Church school experience, while also being an Early Years specialist, together with knowledge of KS2. We have every confidence that the school will go from strength to strength under Sarah's strong, efficient and experienced leadership. We are expecting a full intake of new Reception children in September and preparations and plans are being made for the new academic year.

We are very sad to say goodbye to Lizzie after 7 years at Twineham. Described by one as a "great servant to the school" this seems a very appropriate way to remember the important role she has played, within our Church school. On behalf of us all, I would like to say a very big "Thank You" to Lizzie, for her hard work and all she has done for the school over the years. From developing Early Years, to implementing an Outdoor Learning programme

throughout the school, now affectionately called “muddy learning”, to learning about Health and Safety, SEND needs and spirituality in her new role, she has driven them all forward with her characteristic determination, dedication and commitment she has given to Twineham each day.

I know Lizzie will be missed by the whole community, as she has touched the hearts of all the children, families, staff, Governors and external partners. We wish her well in her new job as a Deputy Head in a school closer to her home.

The Governors would like to extend their thanks to all our wonderful, caring and dedicated staff, who work so hard to give each child the best possible start in life, fulfilling our school’s vision and ethos to make Twineham such a wonderful school.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Margaret Smith  
(Chair of Governors.)

July 2023