



A more meaningful Ethos statement for our school

In light of our recent mid-term SIAMS review (Church of England Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools), we have revisited our Ethos statement to ensure that it continues to sit well with our Belong, Believe, Achieve values and our Aims and Vision which promote not only academic excellence, but, crucially, a culture of embracing challenge, generosity in our friendships, and striving to be well-rounded global citizens. The new statement reflects the previous version's emphasis on our historic ties with the Church and serving the community, but now incorporates the overarching theme of us all being part of the 'vine' of Jesus, and therefore living productive and fruitful lives:

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

At our school we strive to be the best that we can be, and to do good in our community and beyond. We cherish our traditional links with the Church, and our Christian values are at the heart of our school life and everything we do. Through our partnerships with other schools, parents, the Church and the community we enjoy a range of educational and social experiences, preparing us for the wider world and enabling us to be successful and giving in our lives ahead.

Our Ethos statement, Aims and Vision are presented on the 'Welcome' page of the school website, but more importantly the message and themes are apparent in all aspects of the school – from the Belong, Believe, Achieve displays in the classrooms, our new Reflection Area, our academic, sporting and creative achievements, and of course in the way all members of the school community interact with and support each other. As such, the governors welcome any feedback on the new Ethos statement, so please send any comments you have to Helen Scurr, Chair of Governors, at chairofgovernors@goring.oxon.sch.uk.

What's the point of Collective Worship?

In May the children had a think about why we have Collective Worship. Here are some of their insights:

To show that we respect God	To meet together	So we feel good for the rest of the day
To be quiet and reflect	To prepare for the day	To celebrate achievements
To speak to God	To think about loved ones	To light the candles because Jesus is the light of the world
To enjoy the story	To worship together	
To appreciate the world together	To read stories from the Bible	To think about things that have happened recently

Good luck to our leavers and going the extra mile

Congratulations to Year 6 on their SATs results and the very best of luck as you move on to your new schools. Goodbye and best wishes also to Miss Barnes, Mrs Mason and Mrs Pipe – thank you for all your hard work. You will be missed!

In addition to academic achievements there have been many other highlights this year, with spectacular sporting success, as well as orchestra, choir and drama performances. These are not 'required' by the National Curriculum, yet the staff and governors consider them an essential part of delivering a well-rounded and enriching education

which is available to all children of all abilities and backgrounds.

None of this of course would be possible without the commitment from staff to provide these opportunities and experiences that go above and beyond the core curriculum. Support from parents is also crucial and, in many cases, these 'extras' are made possible with the financial support from PTA donations – particularly in the current climate of extremely stretched school budgets. So thank you to everybody for helping us to provide these enhancements to the children of this school.

Urgent call for parent governors!

The Parentmail sent out in May with information about the parent governor vacancy regrettably did not result in any nominations, and **we are now looking to fill two parent governor vacancies.**

Governors are strategic leaders within the school and have a vital role to play in:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and direction;
- holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- overseeing the school's financial performance.

There are many different roles to suit individual skills and areas of interest, and plenty of training opportunities. You are not expected to be an expert from day one, but just need commitment and an interest in the outcomes of the children, an ability to assimilate information and reach informed decisions, and good interpersonal skills. As a parent governor you will find that you learn a great deal and really make a material contribution to the school.

If you would like to know more about becoming a governor, please contact Helen Scurr, Chair of Governors, at chairofgovernors@goring.oxon.sch.uk.

Thanks to Lindsay Freeman and Carla Turner for their contributions as parent governors, and thank you also to Nigel Gordon-Potts, who is standing down after an impressive 13-year stint as governor. Nigel's wisdom and good humour will be missed at Governors' Board, but we will continue to enjoy his school assemblies!



Nigel in action

The governors from September 2018:

Iain Alexander, Foundation Governor
Bridget Braham, Foundation Governor, *Vice Chair*
Mandy Clegg, Staff Governor
Vanessa Cooke, Co-opted Governor
Hannah Grey, Associate Governor
Kerry Hughes, Parent Governor, *Vice Chair*
Steve Johnson, Ex officio Governor (Diocese)
Jean Mitchell, Foundation Governor
Tim Monk, Foundation Governor
Marilyn Purdie, Foundation Governor
Helen Scurr, Foundation Governor, *Chair*
Claire Slade, Local Authority Governor
Angela Wheatcroft, Headteacher
Sarah Boulton-Jones, Clerk to the Governors

Watch this space ...

After a good deal of speculation about what Mr Trimmings was up to last week, you can now see the emergence of some very special artwork on the PE hall which began this week – all thanks to a grant of £500 from Goring Arts Society and the skills of local artist and school parent Camilla Sopwith and her daughter.

The governors are extremely grateful for this generous donation and very much look forward to seeing the finished work!



How are we doing?

Our biannual survey of the children held in June showed that 98% feel happy at school; 99% feel free from danger; and 90% feel that behaviour in school is good. Of course there are a few areas that some children are not so happy with, such as certain playground-related issues, and staff hope to address these with measures including the new peer mediator system.

This survey is a useful tool allowing staff and governors to measure levels of happiness and wellbeing among our pupils, and we hope it will be supplemented with a good response rate to the parent/guardian survey which has just been sent out. This is a confidential questionnaire enabling you to give us your take on your child's experience of school.

If you have not received an invitation to complete the survey, please contact the school office.

If you have comments or feedback regarding any of the articles in this newsletter, please email the governors at clerk@goring.oxon.sch.uk