

Report – St Andrew’s C of E Primary School – Chair Dr Jenny Mant (also known as Jenny Mutch)

School ethos (summary from the website)

‘When you join us, your child's education will be rooted in our HSA Way. This is our expression of all we do as a Church of England school to foster children's personal and spiritual growth, alongside their academic learning so they live life in all its fullness. We are guided by our bible verse "**Let your Light Shine**" and seek to provide as many opportunities as we can for your child to find what they are good at so that their unique light can shine in the world.

Our vision is to **Love Learning, Aim High and Trust God**. We **Aim High** in our expectations of all our children: in their learning and their social and emotional development. Whatever your child is aiming for, we will help them reach for it. We **Love Learning** - we foster the natural curiosity that all children are blessed with and provide life experiences that will open children's eyes and create lasting memories. We **Trust God**’.

Governance and support from St Andrews

St Andrew’s School continues to be a valued and close partner of St Andrew’s Church with the relationship between church and school remaining strong, visible, and mutually supportive over the past year.

This support is especially so, via school Governance. There are currently 8 Governors including the Head and Deputy Head. Of the remaining 6, 4 are regular congregational members of St Andrew Church namely:

Jenny Mant (Chair and Finance and Resources)

Rev. Alan Stewart (Pastoral and safeguarding lead)

Lyn Paine (Early Years lead)

Kathy Kenedy (Maths and Science lead and school improvements committee)

In addition to their individual responsibilities the Governors collectively contribute to the vision and direction of the school, supporting and constructively challenging leadership, monitoring standards, and ensuring that religious education and collective worship remain central to school life. The governing body continues to work closely with the Headteacher and senior leadership team, and last Autumn the Governors had a full day in the school. One thing that was reported back by all Governors related to the Children’s understanding of safety and view that the school was a safe place where they could ask any member of staff for help. For children of this age this is so important.

Until Autumn 2025, Rod Willis was a long-standing member of the Governor board leading on health and safety and premises reviews and policy. The Governing board were sad to hear of his resignation but thanked him for all he had done for the school for over 20 years.

The Governor body is still in need of additional Governors. We have advertised and continue to do so - if you are interested please let Jenny know.

Activities and communication

Regular updates in the Parish Magazine have been written during the year, aimed at letting the St Andrew's congregations and a wider audience know about some of the great things that go on within the school environs. These articles have reflected on the vibrancy of school life including learning to ride bikes, cricket days, interaction with the local community via a parade around Sele Farm area and even an astrophysics themed week. The magazine articles have also celebrated the ways in which pupils live out Christian values in the school.

Alan Stewart and Lindsey Betteridge regularly attend the school and share the responsibilities of school assemblies. These assemblies provide an opportunity to explore Christian values in an accessible and engaging way, encouraging reflection, kindness, and a sense of belonging. Their consistent presence helps to strengthen the link between church and school, offering continuity and a familiar connection for the children. Most of the children know their names and are very happy to engage with them.

Other key activities have included the Christmas Service in the Church for the whole school and a parents-teach association (PTA) coffee morning at the church to raise funds for new school equipment.

Premises improvements

Last summer much of the school had a refit inside making it much more fit for purpose for the range of children in terms of age, ability and needs.

Education and attendance

Attendance is exceptionally high and slightly above the average in the County. The children love going to school. The fantastic school walking bus and its dedicated team including members of St Andrews Congregation have been instrumental in gathering children every morning who may otherwise struggle to get to school in time.

As of this term all children are entitled to free breakfast via a grant – how great is that!

This helps to ensure that the children are given the best learning environment. There are still things to do to help especially the younger children and for some with very specific educational needs... but that is all about doing the best for each child whatever their ability and that is what the school is all about.

Future ambitions

Hot of the press- The school has been awarded a substantial grant to help towards developing a pre-school dedicated classroom – watch this space for next year.