

ASCC – Governor Self Evaluation of the year 2020–21

AS

In reviewing the Mission, I was struck by the statement on page 5: “It is the role of the Headteacher to ensure that the three parts of All Saints’ Mission” (by the way I spotted an apostrophe in the wrong place at the same time) “are delivered and within the spirit of the document.”

The three parts are of course the education and the formation of the individual and a commitment to social justice.

As to the first, during this last Covid year, I have been struck as I know other governors have also by the education that has been offered to our students compared to the reported norm. This wasn’t serendipity, this came about through the foresightedness and extensive planning of the SLT. That quality work was delivered and marked resulted from the willingness of the staff as a whole to put the children first. As has recently been widely reported, the poorer children suffer the most. Flexibility has also been key; the willingness of staff to adapt to a rapidly shifting landscape and to work sometimes well beyond their normal obligations.

Formation is looking at the individual holistically– morale has been important, and the way in which the school has sought to reassure students and staff by providing them with a safe environment which has become ever nicer on each visit. Inspirational artwork has been added to many parts of the school which have been refurbished, students have been thrilled to return to school to find new and exciting facilities and opportunities. Governors have sought to support in many generous ways, including with the acquisition of musical instruments. Being taught to be better people and to take a valuable place in our society is an integral part of development of an individual, and when students let themselves down staff are ready to work with the local community even if that means legging it onto the local estate to stop nuisance behaviour.

During this whole crisis the school has become a genuine hub for our local community, the hub being the element of a wheel that provides its strength and keeps the whole together to go forward. Members of staff have done much to support our less able and well-off families, organising vouchers and raising additional money to help those in difficulty.

St Ignatius of Loyola said that: “Love is shown more in deeds than in words”. This school lives out that love on a daily basis and I believe that the local community has started to appreciate that.

Orare, laborare, servire: – we chose this motto well. If ever there was a year to demonstrate that each of these three elements is critical, this was it.

With my “Future Direction of the School” hat on, I would add that all of this has been done whilst at the same time working with the local authority to support a perceived need for more school places, cementing relationships with feeder

schools and working with Lighthouse to aid local authorities and Dioceses more widely, all with a view to strengthening the educational offer in the area and securing the future of the school.

EG

The pandemic had changed the governor role as they had not been able to get into the School as easily however she felt governors had been kept well informed of all the work put in by the School. She congratulated the School in particular on its work with the Y11 cohort and in getting all the assessments completed by 18th June so they could go earlier and the work with Y10 could start.

MK

This year she had moved from the C&CL to F&GP committee so did not have the same knowledge about the School's educational data but had found the work on the School's finances and operational quite interesting and it was exciting to see the translation of the numbers into the physical changes to the School and the enthusiasm reflected in students. The School had built a community which could be seen in the governors afternoon today where all the students she had met agreed the return to the school was the highlight of the year. Students had stated that the little changes had made a difference and that they liked the homework club which was very inspiring.

DH

He had not been able to visit the School as the SEND link governor or be involved as he had been in previous years. The quality of documentation provided by the School had been astonishing and DH had felt that he did not need to visit because he knew what was going on in the School, and the SEND provision was in great shape. As Chair of the C&CL committee he felt he had a good understanding of the School's work and that it was well managed and delivered.

CJ

Agreed with MK, with the exception he had been able to come in over the last 6-9 months and had seen physical evidence of spending on the school site and seeing the children interacting with it particularly the new kitchens downstairs had been wonderful.

RB

Really impressed seeing the offer for our students in practice and the work on the Post 16 transitions Oxbridge and scholarships. Felt the School was aspirational for its students even with the difficulties of Covid.

HF

Came back after two years away working overseas and stated that it had been good to see what the School and governors had managed to do in the last two years. The management and information about the Schools' finances in committee were clearer and better with the same overarching themes of spending funds on what the students need and enjoy. HF concluded that she was looking forward to getting stuck in the role more next year.

RR

So impressed at how the School has carried on despite Covid particularly with (her link area) fund raising. Felt that further grants would be awarded when donors saw what the School had achieved with the funding.

MH

The school epitomises to work is to pray, everything reflects this throughout the School. Listening to everyone from the staff to the Y7's was a real joy today. Epitomises the prayer at the beginning of the meeting. Thank you for what you have done.

ES joined the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

DS

The students in the governors' afternoon had been a credit to AON and the SLT and so were the staff who were constantly engaging their students even at the height of lockdown. Parents had been happy and the School had laid the foundations before Covid which had allowed the School to be up and running straight away in lockdown. Staff had been given new insights in how to communicate with their students. The Chaplaincy work was going well and the use of the green screen in broadcasts for students had been successful, "Good Morning All Saints" had been very admirable. AON advised governors could find Bonny's broadcasts on the School's Youtube channel.

JDK

As the Catholic Life link governor she felt that this year the Catholic Life in the School had come alive and she had seen it during the afternoon in particular with the Y7's and choir. Spirituality had filled the building. JDK stated that she had enjoyed speaking to Georgia today and her experience and how she has been so supported and feels lucky to be training here and felt respected and helped. Great community.

RG

RG stated the context of what governors had seen today had been particularly impressive considering the year had been the most difficult of recent years.

Staff in schools across the country were on their knees yet the School's staff were still motivated and working hard. The School had had fantastic leadership and a collective spirit. The School had made many outstanding appointments and things were set up well for the future.

A huge amount of work had fallen on the leadership team while they were building the team but were now in a good place to reap the benefits which would help shift the School from good to outstanding, focusing on specific areas. RG stated despite moving away from London he wished to remain involved with the School and was excited about the challenge and its future.

MM

MM stated she had been away for most of the year and when she had left the country last summer the School was just getting arts, music and drama going. Today she had been delighted to come back and see the choir, the new art facilities and teachers; the displays the whole arts programme had been overwhelming.

MM had loved the interviews of AON and the teachers, and it was good for the students to see their teachers in a different tangible way.

The RE results showed how embedded it was in the curriculum.

The Y7's were wonderful today when talking and asking about their experiences. Ebullient about how fantastic it was. A bedrock of the teaching had been the literacy push.