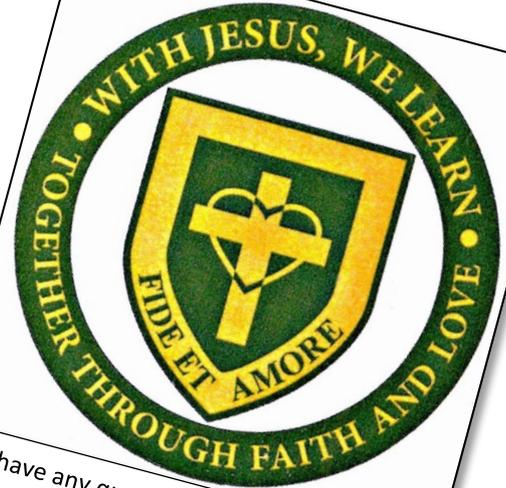


St Mary's has received the London Schools Gold Club Award from the Mayor of London once again this year. In July 2014, we also received the National College for Teaching and Leadership accreditation to become a Teaching School. The Senior Management Team has been developing the Teaching School by hosting training courses, which are run by external providers, offering training to other schools. St Mary's staff have also benefitted, as they have been able to attend these training courses free of charge. Mr Ellis has been involved in designing a separate website for this enterprise. Eventually, once the Training School is established we will be able to be more involved in recruiting and training new teachers into the profession.



If you have any queries or concerns you would like to raise please send them to the school office for the attention of Clerk to Governors or email to jtaberer@hgfl.org.uk

Special Educational Needs New Code of Practice

Mr Ellis, along with the rest of the staff, has been working hard to modify their practise to match the requirements of the new Code of Practice that came into effect at the start of this academic year. The guidance focusses very much on pupil voice and parental engagement, which is evident in structured parents' evenings and individualised targets for the pupils. A large focus this year has gone into high 'quality first' teaching and quality assurance of the support groups that happen in abundance within St. Mary's. Whereas many schools have found the changes rather overwhelming, St. Mary's have coped very well as numerous changes in the new Code of Practice were already happening in the school.

At the recent Curriculum Meeting, Miss Shevlin outlined to the Governors each of the support programmes and the resources available to pupils with special educational needs as well as those more able.

Mr K Oakley Inclusion Governor

School meals

The universal free school meals are proving to be a great success and are popular with both students and teachers. However, the school has unfortunately had a few problems with the software relating to logging in and the ordering of meals. Parents have been notified as soon as possible of any system issues and many parents have contacted the school and been able to explain issues by describing what is being shown on their device from a booking point of view.



Our new homepage!

The new St Mary's school website is now up and running at www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk, and despite a few teething problems, parents are now able to navigate the site to find a wealth of information relating to school matters. In September 2015, there will be a Governors' Section in line with Government Statutory Requirements.



Thank you: We would like to thank Mr Keaveney, our Caretaker, for all his hard work painting throughout the school in order to help us save on our budget. This is in addition to his day-to-day duties and is much appreciated by both staff and governors. Another thank you goes to our **PTA** for all their fundraising, the proceeds of which go towards our Christmas Pantomime, coaches & parties. We are most grateful for the continued support received from our PTA.

Personnel Committee

At the March meeting of the Personnel Committee the following non-confidential items were discussed:

Performance Management – the Governing Body discussed that as part of the whole school’s performance management, teachers are working on the progress of children in reading, writing and mathematics. This target also relates to the use of effective marking and feedback, enabling children to make progress in their work and become reflective learners with a clear understanding of the next step in their learning. The governors also discussed the impact that this level of detailed marking, as part of the new marking policy, is having on teachers’ workloads.

Headteacher’s Performance Management – ‘Embedding assessment without levels’ is one of Miss Shevlin’s targets for this academic year. The governors were updated on a new internet-based assessment package called Classroom Monitor, which has been purchased by the school. Over the summer term, teachers will be looking at how they can report progress information to parents using this new system in a clear and understandable format.

Another target for this year is **‘Promoting the understanding of other faiths and groups’** and the governors were informed of the ‘One World Week’ during which all classes looked at other faiths. This will be extended further and during the summer and autumn terms it is hoped that visits to other places of worship can be planned.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee have overseen the school finances as with the protocols laid down by the local authority and their accountability as Governors of St Marys. As with most local authorities budgets are very tight and Governors are aware of the constraints and investigate best value and savings whenever possible.

Cllr George Cooper – Chair of Finance Committee



Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee has been discussing the new Curriculum and received reports from Miss Shevlin on the progress of adapting to the new guidance. They have also studied pupils’ results in detail and many Governors have attended RAISE On-line training to help with analysing the data on results and progress of the pupils. Governors have also been updated on the Religious Education Curriculum as directed by the Diocese of Westminster.

Miss A Shevlin – Chair of Curriculum Committee



Admissions Committee

Reception and Nursery places have now been allocated. Once again, the school is very disappointed that some families have been unable to secure places for their children. The issue of oversubscription has been discussed at length at the admissions meetings and it is likely to be an ongoing problem as new properties continue to be built within close proximity to the school.

Mr T Bem – Chair of Admissions Committee

Premises Committee

At the January meeting of the Premises Committee the following items were discussed:

Junior playground – the issue of the dips in the junior playground surface were discussed. A couple of quotes had been received to level and resurface these areas; however, after some discussion it was agreed that a more detailed inspection was required to ascertain what was causing this problem in order that it can be properly repaired. In the meantime the caretaker, Mr Keaveney, will continue to use a machine to soak up the water that accumulates after any rainfall.

Infant playground (grass area) – it was agreed at this meeting that an artificial grass surface would be created around the wendy house in order to improve the area for the children and to make it easier to maintain. This work has since been carried out and we are delighted with the outcome.

Grant for work – the school had applied for a further grant for a new ramp from the junior playground into the hall; however, since the meeting we have been advised that St Mary’s was not successful in their bid this year.

School Visits Policy – the issue of parents dropping out of helping on school trips at the last minute and the impact this has on whether the trip can go ahead was discussed at length. A revised proforma for parents to sign was agreed. Another issue is staff having to chase parents for reply slips giving permission for their child to attend a trip. The option of asking parents to sign one reply slip at the beginning of the year for the majority of the school trips for that year is being considered. This would be introduced for the next academic year; however, permission for the Year 6 residential trip would be requested separately.

Disability Equality Scheme – School Access Plan – a new document - ‘Increased Access to the Curriculum for Disabled Pupils’ was discussed. The school has applied for an access grant to help with the ongoing changes we are already making to support our children with disabilities. For example, LCD interactive boards are being purchased to provide sharper and clearer graphics, particularly for pupils with visual disabilities.