

SUMMARISED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23

SUTTON VENY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Review of the year

1. This has been another busy year for the Sutton Veny Primary School. In many ways, the school was finally getting back to a normal routine for the children and staff following the disruptions and challenges of Covid. In addition to that, the fiscal environment remained tight and the school had to successfully manage several changes of staff and Governors.
2. It was very pleasing, therefore, to see that the school ethos and culture remain true – the ‘Sutton Veny way’ holds firm; the children are achieving results above the national and county average and enjoy learning at the school; the leadership structures in school are now well established; staff turnover has been much more stable than last year; and we have been able to maintain the much valued 7-class structure. It was also very pleasing to receive a Good from the OFSTED inspection, which included a highly commendable Outstanding in early years provision. Given how much higher the bar now is for OFSTED inspections than it was decades ago, this result spoke volumes for the culture and values of the school staff and leadership.
3. Of note also was the energy and commitment shown by Friends of School. The parents who run this support group contributed a huge amount of time and effort both running fun events and raising money for the school to buy what would otherwise be unaffordable additional learning resources.
4. One of the reasons the school has remained an excellent place to learn and develop is because it is always seeking to improve. In this spirit, the Governing Body and senior leadership have some key focus areas going into the next school year, which are discussed below. Notwithstanding that, the Governing Body goes into school-year 2023/24 with great confidence in Sutton Veny CE Primary School.

Governor focus areas for 2023/24

5. **Pupil learning experience.** The Governing Body remains significantly focused on quality of teaching, improvements to the delivery of the curriculum and maintaining the successful seven-class structure. There are ongoing improvements being made in making the various strands of the curriculum at all stages of development even more coherent and this work should be finalized next year, as should addressing the improvement points made in the OFSTED report. The maintenance of the 7-class structure depends on maintaining and growing as far as possible pupil numbers. To achieve this, the school is working on becoming more visible to potential families and offering significantly better ‘wrap around’ care opportunities for parents from September.
6. **Staffing.** Over the coming year, the focus will remain on consolidating the new team, especially supporting their personal professional development.

7. **Estate.** The school is seeking to make changes to the building to increase capacity and improve accessibility.
8. **Diversity.** The Governors are focused on ensuring the school is accessible and inclusive. The school will continue to review the teaching materials to ensure it reflects the UK's diversity; the physical accessibility to the school will be improved; and measures taken to make the school easier to access for working parents, such as better 'wrap-around' care and activities.
9. **Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) & Collaborative Partnering.** The UK Government has a long-term policy to encourage all schools to become part of a MAT, although the mandated policy to achieve this by 2030 has now been withdrawn. The FGB will continue to investigate what might be the best long-term courses of action for the school. In addition, the school will continue to build its mutually supportive relationship with other local primary schools as part of the Compass Group initiative.
10. **OFSTED Inspection.** The recent OFSTED inspection made recommendations for improvement at the school. Governors will monitor progress by the school in addressing these recommendations, over the coming year.

Conclusion.

11. We are not complacent, the recent OFSTED report, with which we were very pleased, shows that there are areas in which the school can and must be improved. The report and background information provided by the SLT will be used to continue to improve the school. We continue to look to ensure that the school provides the opportunity for each and every child to "reach for the stars".