

Foundation Governors report to PCC
Dr Bill Pigg Foundation Governor
Elvington CE Primary School

Elvington CE Primary School has, like all schools, been hit by the Covid 19 pandemic. Precautions taken by the Staff and Governors in the early stages of the pandemic meant that the school avoided serious disruption. Most governor meetings are still undertaken virtually, or at least with a virtual option and governors are only now beginning to re-enter the school. Despite the precautions home learning and pupil and staff absences were experienced. I do believe that these were at a lower level than experienced at many other York schools.

There have been some changes to the governing body during the last year with some leavers and joiners. Many of those governors whose "tour of duty" came to an end have been able to stay on as coopted governors or by re-election meaning that we have maintained our experienced board during these challenging times. We do still have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor, I do feel that it would be great if we could source an individual from the local area rather than seek help from the diocese for such a person. It is not an onerous role and, as we emerge from the pandemic, the opportunity to spend time in school is a rewarding experience.

Mr. Buttery, the relatively new head, continues to lead the school well, there is a clear team ethos amongst the staff and morale appears good. In terms of RE, Miss Rushmer continues to be the subject lead and is enthusiastically liaising with the diocese team to source educational content. The school also signed up to the enhanced service level agreement with the diocese to help with this.

Educational attainment levels remain high, indeed I do believe the school is tracking on a very positive trajectory in terms of performance, albeit the pandemic has had some impact. The staff each having subject leadership roles does appear to be driving performance – indeed the recent attainment of the Early Years Quality Mark Award means that Elvington may be the only Primary School in York to hold both Quality Marks. The school, like many schools does have a falling pupil role as we look forward. Currently numbers are around 130 pupils but currently the next year could fall into the lower 120's. Although not yet an issue, however, were this trend to continue than a reduction in class numbers from five to four might be required. With no building planned in the village it is unlikely that pupil numbers will grow significantly.

Finally, I have stepped down as Chair of Governors, although I am happy to remain as Foundation Governor for the time-being. Growing work commitments mean that I just do not have the time to do the chair's role. I believe two governors may step forward to be joint chair and take the Governing Body and the School forward.

Dr Bill Pigg
April 2022