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Headteacher: Mr Andrew Beattie



On behalf of the Governing Body, I am delighted to share this annual statement with parents, carers and guardians, with regards to the school's performance and a more general statement in a time of great change for the school.

For those who don't know me, I have been a Parent Governor since the end of 2024 and I sit on the Finance and Health and Safety Committees.

This year the Governing Body have been closely monitoring:

- Standards, Teaching and Learning
- Pupil progress.
- The support for children with additional needs.
- Safeguarding.
- Leadership, Staff and Staff Development.
- Finance, Resource and Facility Management.

I am proud to say that the results of our children continue to sit well above national and local averages in the core subjects of reading, writing, grammar and maths. Proudly, this is the case of all of our different groups of children. In addition to this, children have a wide range of opportunities to join enrichment activities under the umbrella of personal development. This covers links to the arts, sports, STEM, faith and community meaning they leave our school with these rich experiences and interests alongside the core values the school teaches around kindness, respect and work ethic.

As a Parent Governor, I feel I have a fantastic opportunity to see some of the workings behind the scenes and then the final product of these efforts with the progress that my own daughter and her friends are making with their education and personal development.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Headteacher, the Teaching Staff and all support staff for their continued efforts. It may seem a shameless cliché, but School staff really do often go above and beyond.

As many of you will be aware, 2025 has been a year where we have had to embrace change, and some of this has been very challenging. With the announcement that our Head Mr Beattie would be leaving us in January and the Schools Business Manager Mrs Maiden leaving us in early December, we've certainly been busy!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers for their continued professionalism and excellent delivery of their roles during these uncertain times.

As we say goodbye to Mr Beattie, we also welcome Alex Moore, (who many of you will already know) as our interim Executive Head for the final two terms of the 25/26 Educational Year. We look forward to the next step of the St James journey with new leadership guidance. I'm sure I'm not the only one who would like to wish both Mrs Maiden and Mr Beattie all the best for the future.

"with exploring minds, and faith; we grow and learn together"

I'm sure there will be some emotional faces on his final day.

In closing, I would like to thank parents, carers and guardians for your ongoing support of the school.

The Governing Body and the Schools Staff remain focused on providing a safe, ambitious, and nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

Best Regards

Michael Routledge
On behalf of the Governing Body.
08/12/2025