

# Matlock Bath Holy Trinity CofE (VC) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Chris Layhe-Humphreys



## Governors' Report 2025

8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been delighted to welcome two new governors for 2025. Rachel Barclay has taken up the parent governor role, and Chris Youngman now serves on behalf of Stephen Monk, since he has so many schools within his work across a number of churches. Both have already contributed a great deal to our efforts to support the school.

We were also joined at the start of the year by Jenny Williams to work in the office, and she has already become indispensable. At the same time at the very end of the year we learned that Miss Harby would be moving on to a TA role in a new school, and we wish her all the very best for the future.

Governors visit the school regularly to keep in touch with developments in teaching and learning. We are always welcomed and given an insight into the way children are nurtured and supported by staff. We have links to subject areas, see work in classrooms, and support school events. We have been keen to support the purchase of new materials for curriculum delivery, and we are given regular information from Chris Layhe-Humphreys and teaching staff on the progress and attainment of all pupils. We help to monitor the impact of new initiatives, and we seek to ensure that the school is using its resources to best effect.

Staff undertake a huge amount of training during the year, and governors, too, keep up to date, particularly on safeguarding. The safety of the site is a priority, especially with so many large trees, some suffering from ash die-back, so work has been authorised to deal with the problem. This has had some impact on budget, and we have had to delay projected improvements to play facilities for the time being. We continue to explore grant-based potential to install solar panels, and a new website has been commissioned.

Governors have worked hard with the head teacher to set the budget for 2025/26, made significantly more challenging since part of the teachers' pay increase, and that for TAs was unfunded. As a consequence, there has been a reduction to total TA hours for the coming academic year, which was necessary to set a balanced budget. As with all small schools, we are highly dependent on recruitment numbers.

School elected to join the government trial of free Breakfast Club provision, and governors have tried to keep costs down for parents using morning and after-school provision to provide wrap-around care. We have also welcomed a new sports provider, and we have been pleased with the impact to date.

Another initiative is to join the Cluster of Gell Schools since Highfields withdrew their Early Help Support Package. The head teacher and I attended a welcome meeting for us and we were very impressed with the work being done to support pupils in local primary schools.

Much is reported on pupil absence nationally, so governors have been especially impressed by the way school has worked with families to promote attendance. Links between the school and the church have continued to thrive, through collective worship in both school and church, and services including the Christmas service, family carol concert and leavers' service, as well as the Nativity Play. We were very grateful to John Gill for organising a Community Concert at the Fishpond, and donating funds to the school. The work of Liz Youngman and the PTFA has also been greatly appreciated.

Tony Jones, Chair of Governors

**Imagine, Believe, Achieve**

**"Let us run the race before us and never give up" Hebrews 12:1**