Matlock Bath Holy Trinity CofE (VC) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Chris Layhe-Humphreys

12th October 2026

Annual Report from the Chair of Governors 2025/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a pleasure to report on the work of the Governing Body over the past year and to thank you for the continued support you give to our school. This has been another successful year, and we are very grateful for the strong partnership between our families, staff, governors, church and wider community.

One of the visible highlights of the year has been the installation of the new Trim Trail. It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying this valuable addition to the school grounds. This project was only possible because of the fantastic fundraising efforts of the PTFA and the generosity of our parents and carers, for which we offer our sincere thanks.

Governors have continued to work closely with the Headteacher and staff to support the delivery of a high-quality education for all pupils. Throughout the year, we have received regular updates on children's progress and attainment, alongside information on the strategies being used to ensure every child can achieve their full potential. Governors have also visited school to observe learning, speak with pupils and staff, and review examples of pupils' work. We are fortunate to have a highly skilled, experienced and dedicated staff team who are committed to providing the very best opportunities for our children. Their ongoing professional development ensures that teaching and learning continue to flourish.

Safeguarding remains our highest priority. Governors undertake regular training to ensure our knowledge remains current and that we fulfil our responsibilities effectively. During the year, additional work has been completed to enhance site safety, including improvements to boundary security and the maintenance of trees across the school grounds. Governors also approved investment in improvements to the entrance hall, creating a more welcoming environment for pupils, families and visitors.

As a Church of England school, we continue to value the strong and supportive relationship we enjoy with our local church. Church members make regular and meaningful contributions to collective worship and school services, enriching the spiritual life of the school. It has been particularly pleasing to see so many parents and carers joining us for these special occasions throughout the year.

The Governing Body is pleased to report that the school's finances continue to be managed carefully and effectively. Despite the withdrawal of government sports funding, the decision to utilise and develop our own staff to provide sports leadership has enabled the school to maintain high-quality sporting opportunities whilst minimising the impact on the budget. Governors remain committed to ensuring that all available resources are used wisely and for the greatest benefit of our children.

This year also marks the beginning of an important period of transition for our school. We are immensely grateful to Chris Layhe-Humphreys for the outstanding leadership, dedication and commitment he has

given to the school. His contribution has been significant, helping to shape the positive and caring environment that our children enjoy today. While we are pleased that Chris will be able to enjoy a well-earned retirement, he will undoubtedly be greatly missed by pupils, staff, governors and families alike.

As governors, we are already working closely with the Local Authority and the Diocese to oversee the recruitment process for a new Headteacher. We are committed to securing an exceptional successor who will continue to build on the school's many strengths and lead it successfully into the future.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank our staff, pupils, parents, carers, volunteers and friends of the school for their ongoing support and commitment. Together, we continue to make our school a wonderful place for children to learn, grow and thrive.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Jones
Chair of Governors