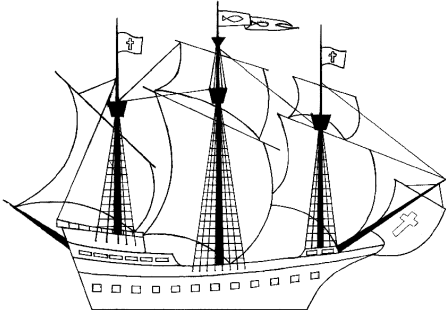

Dawpool C.E (Aided) Primary School

. . . Living the Fruit of the Spirit

***'The Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness & Self Control'
(Galatians 5:22-23)***



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Head Teacher: Mr D. Burrows MA, NPQH

24th July 2017

Dear Parents,

I am writing to provide an overview of our school improvement priorities for 2017-18.

When OFSTED last visited Dawpool in 2008, we were graded an 'outstanding' school. The OFSTED framework has changed many times since then and it is commonly recognised that the present August 2016 framework has raised the bar even higher. In other words, it is much more difficult than it was to attain an outstanding judgement. Nevertheless, we are keen to maintain and sustain school improvement.

Over recent months, we have actively listened to the views of all stakeholders to support us in moving the school forward. We have done this in several ways:

1. Commissioned an independent review of the school's effectiveness.

This review was carried out over two days by three Diocesan school improvement officers. The reviewers observed lessons in all classes, an act of worship, playtimes and lunchtimes, examined pupils' workbooks and conducted interviews with the headteacher, the vicar of St Chad's and St Bartholomew's, governors, staff, parents and pupils. This was a thorough process which was enormously helpful in identifying the school's next steps.

2. Listened to parents' views through face-to-face forums and from responses to a questionnaire.

During the spring term, the Governing Body held its first parents' forum meetings. Thank you to all those who attended. It was very productive to get together and evaluate where we are and look to the future in a positive and open way. We propose to hold these meetings each term.

***'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord. 'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.'* (Jeremiah 29:11)**

3. *Actively encouraged 'pupil voice' and analysed responses to a pupils' questionnaire.*

The children have been encouraged to be open and honest about their experience in school through meetings of the school council and worship group, in PSHE lessons and through a questionnaire.

The findings

What is going well?

The reviewers identified many positive features of the school. We have taken the statements below from the reviewers' report. Many of their observations have been confirmed by parents, pupils and staff:

- The school provides excellent care and nurture for its pupils. It has a very positive, family ethos, where everyone feels valued.
- It has clear Christian values that can be seen in action.
- Relationships between staff and pupils, and between pupils are very good. There is excellent teamwork between staff.
- The school is welcoming and pupils behave well around school and in the classroom. Behaviour during morning worship is excellent.
- The school provides quality wrap-around care outside of the school day and a good range of after-school activities.
- The new headteacher has wisely taken time to get to know the school, its pupils and its community before introducing changes. The sensitivity of this approach has worked well and preserved the school's special character.
- The new headteacher has won the confidence of staff, pupils, parents and the community. He is moving the school forward. The changes he has introduced, particularly improved communication with parents, safeguarding measures and enhanced church distinctiveness, have met with widespread approval.
- Governors know the school well and are open to change. They are well-led and provide good support and challenge for the new headteacher. Governors are experienced, skilled and well-informed. They visit the school frequently outside of meetings and have a good knowledge of the school that comes from seeing it work under everyday circumstances.
- Parents are very supportive of the school. They appreciate the way in which the school keeps them informed.
- The new nursery (F1) is a positive addition to the school's provision for the youngest children. The quality of provision in F1 is already good, making good use of learning opportunities indoors and outside, for example, in the 'secret garden'. Children are now moving through to F2 well-prepared.
- The teamwork between teachers and teaching assistants was a strength of the teaching in part due to the willingness of the teaching assistants to 'go the extra mile' for the pupils and teachers.
- Good use was made in some classes of Assessment for Learning, where pupils articulated their thinking to each other. In several classes, teachers used new technology to good effect.
- Pupils report good relationships between children in school, listing their friends and their teachers as the two main reasons why they like school.
- If pupils have a problem they have trust in their teachers and they can arrange a meeting, should they wish, with a member of staff trained in counselling techniques.
- The care for and the welfare of pupils is of high priority for all staff and the provision is excellent. The school recognises the pressures of modern life on pupils and families and

makes special provision for them, promoting resilience and a positive outlook through its personal, social and health education curriculum.

- Leadership provides very well for pupils who are vulnerable to underachievement, because of home circumstances, special educational needs or well-being issues.
- Apart from family support, the school provides for a breakfast and after-school service for working families and an extensive range of after-school activities to develop pupils' interest and skills in the wider curriculum.
- In interviews with reviewers, parents rated care and welfare very highly. In a recent survey, 19 out of every 20 respondents would recommend Dawpool to other parents.
- Attendance is good and there is little persistent absence.
- Pupils' personal development is nurtured well. By the time they reach Year 6, pupils have mature and responsible attitudes and articulate their feelings well.
- Pupils make a substantial contribution to the development of the school through the school council and other committees. They demonstrate tolerance and care for others, respecting differences.
- Parents and pupils approve of the more distinctive church ethos introduced by the new headteacher.
- Members of the 'ethos' committee could list each of the 'Fruits of the Spirit' promoted by the school to develop Christian character.
- Worship is more clearly related to gospel teaching.
- The links to the church have become stronger and pupils lead services on Sundays for the first time.
- Prayers are a natural feature of the school day.
- The church inspection of 2013 judged the school to be outstanding in its Christian distinctiveness and this aspect of the school has clearly been strengthened further.
- Leadership and management practices are being overhauled. Teaching quality is monitored, pupils' progress is regularly discussed and teachers' judgements are moderated.
- Arrangements for safeguarding are good. Pupils feel safe and there are good arrangements to ensure all adults are appropriately vetted and recruited.
- The partnership with parents has been strengthened further and is excellent.
- Parents are strongly supportive of the improved communication from school and of the improved opportunities to discuss their children's progress. They appreciate the new opportunities to contribute their views about the school's further development and welcome the setting up of a representative parents' forum.
- Good governance and clear-sighted leadership provide the school with good capacity for further improvement.

Results of Spring Term Parents' Questionnaire

58 families responded to the questionnaire in the Spring Term representing 78 children

Number of children from each cohort represented in the responses.	F1	F2	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
	11	9	16	8	8	10	8	8

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	My child is happy at Dawpool	64%	36%	0%	0%
2	My child feels safe at Dawpool	69%	31%	0%	0%
3	My child makes good progress at Dawpool	50%	47%	1.5%	1.5%
4	My child is well looked after at Dawpool	64%	36%	0%	0%
5	My child is taught well at Dawpool	36%	62.5%	1.5%	0%
6	My child receives appropriate homework for their age	45%	46.5%	8.5%	0%
7	Dawpool makes sure its pupils behave well	55%	38%	7%	0%
8	Dawpool deals effectively with bullying	41%	50%	7.5%	1.5%
9	Dawpool is well led and managed	50%	47%	1.5%	1.5%
10	Dawpool responds well to any concerns I raise	60%	28%	12%	0%
11	I receive valuable information from Dawpool about my child's progress	40%	47%	11.5%	1.5%

12	I would recommend Dawpool to another parent	YES	95.5%	NO	4.5%
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What needs to be developed?

The School Improvement Committee of the Governing Body have reviewed the outcomes of the school review and considered all of the information received from stakeholders. As a result, we have identified 4 main school priorities for the academic year 2017-18.

Priority 1
To develop subject leadership.
<p><i>Overall success criteria:</i></p> <p><i>All pupils and groups of pupils receive a broad, rich curriculum, fit for the 21 Century.</i></p>

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord. 'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.' (Jeremiah 29:11)

Priority 2
To further improve teaching and learning.
<i>Overall success criteria: The characteristics of effective learning can be seen routinely in every class.</i>
Priority 3:
To raise standards in mathematics.
<i>Overall success criteria: All pupils and groups of pupils make expected or better progress in mathematics. Those who are capable work at a greater depth.</i>
Priority 4:
Where necessary, improve the expectations of pupils' behaviour at all times of the school day.
<i>Overall success criteria: All pupils and groups of pupils behave well, and feel happy and safe at all times of the school day.</i>

A detailed action plan has been written for each priority. We will keep you informed of our progress towards these priorities throughout the year. The staff are excited about the year ahead and are looking forward to working with their new classes in September.

I really do want to hear your views about the school. I will always listen and, where possible, make the changes you would like to see.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. I wish you a wonderful Summer holiday.

My best wishes as always,



David Burrows
(Head Teacher)