



Dear Parent/Carer

4 October 2019

Interim Executive Board (IEB) Update

The IEB was established through the Local Authority on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education. It was established as there were shared concerns that the leadership of the school was not making sufficient progress to bring about improvements to the education of pupils in school.

The IEB has 3 core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding leaders to account for the educational performance of the School and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the School and making sure its money is well spent.

The IEB has five volunteer members; Mrs B Watt (Chair), Mr B Piercy (Vice Chair), Ms C Robinson, Mrs C Scott and Mrs H Smith all of whom were appointed because they have significant experience in the governance and leadership of schools. In August they were appointed to replace the previous Governing Body and have a specific duty to bring about sustainable changes that lead to improved outcomes for pupils. This is done in partnership with the Local Authority and Diocese.

In the absence of our Headteacher Mrs Proud the IEB made the decision to appoint the long-standing Deputy Headteacher Mrs Atkinson as Acting Headteacher for the autumn term. In order to support that arrangement the IEB have appointed Mrs Newton as Lead Consultant Headteacher and Mr Harrison as Consultant Headteacher. Both are successful experienced Headteacher's of other primary schools in County Durham. Mrs Newton has the lead strategic responsibility to improve teaching and learning and is supported by Mr Harrison and Mrs Atkinson.

These arrangements have the support of the Local Authority and Diocese. In addition to that we have a School Leadership Adviser from the Local Authority Mr Young who will monitor progress. Other more specific curriculum support is also provided by the Local Authority.

The Diocese has also appointed an Adviser Mrs Vernon to support with a focus, although not exclusively, on the religious aspects of School; all partners including staff across the school work collaboratively.

The IEB has already undertaken an exercise to identify priorities for improvement over the academic year. We have already made improvements to the physical appearance of the classrooms/library/hall and public areas; re-located the School

Office and improved signage to the buildings. There is a strict programme of monitoring in place with IEB members having specific areas of responsibility that reflect their experience. We are required by law to ensure the school is meeting its many statutory requirements which include its policies and website.

The IEB has instructed school to close its current website and Class Dojo given its history of misuse and technical challenges. We are currently exploring other opportunities to improve communication with parents and we hope the new school website will support that.

In partnership with School Leaders the IEB have already approved an IEB Action Plan and School Improvement Plan. A copy of the plans and approved minutes of the IEB will be on the new School website but in the meantime parents can ask for a hard copy from the school office. Mrs Atkinson will inform you of the launch date of the new website in her Newsletter.

If you have any concerns then please approach Mrs Atkinson in the first instance by contacting her in School. The IEB will write to you further with an update of progress before the end of term.

Yours faithfully

Interim Executive Board

Of Chester Le Street C.E. Primary School