



Hertford St Andrew C of E Primary School

Love Learning. Aim High. Trust God.

Since I wrote a report in April 2024, our school has had OFSTED and SIAMS inspections, seen a number of changes in staffing with the appointment of Mrs Jo Williams as Deputy Headteacher and five new teachers, and some changes to the indoor environment including a sensory corridor for the children with SEND.

Our most recent Ofsted inspection was an ungraded (section 8) inspection and provided valuable insights into the strengths of the school and highlighted the dedication of staff, the engagement of our pupils, and the positive atmosphere that permeates our learning environment. A quote from the report says: *"Pupils enjoy attending Hertford St Andrew School. There is a calm and welcoming atmosphere. The school places a high value on everyone being included."* An exciting new initiative is our 10 for 10 curriculum (ten, ten-minute sessions) providing opportunities for pupils among other things to develop a love of cultural experiences through music and the arts"

Our school embodies Christian values, fostering a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child is valued. The SIAMS report concluded that our school is living up to its foundations as a church school and is enabling children and adults to flourish. Leaders and staff providing a caring and nurturing environment where the children grow in confidence and are keen to learn. Our vision – "Love Learning, Aim High, Trust God" inspires the children to ask questions. Loving and valuing everyone is an essential element of Christian behaviour and is at the heart of life at the school and allows our children to respond to the school's adopted Bible verse "let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16). Every week each class nominates their shining lights, and these children are invited to the front of the Hall in Collective Worship. Visit our excellent website to read more about these in the school's Newsletters: www.hertfordstandrew.herts.sch.uk

There are currently 137 children on roll including 16 nursery children. The school has been fully staffed throughout the academic year.

St Andrew's continues to have a high proportion of the children on the SEND register (25%) with ten children with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP), four with Education and Health Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA), eligible for Free School Meals (45%) and receiving Pupil Premium funding (45%), all of which is above the National Average. The Department for Education requires the Pupil Premium money to be spent on promoting the progress of disadvantaged children and a full analysis of how the money is spent can be found on our website. The focus of our pupil premium strategy is to support disadvantaged pupils to make good progress and

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achieve high attainment across all subject areas, including progress for those who are already high attainers.

Overall, the school is balancing its budget, but governors are very aware of the increasing costs (notably rising employment costs) that face all schools in both the primary and secondary sectors. Governors need to review all expenditures with great rigour when the budget for 2025/26 is set. The number of children in school, is still low and this affects the budget as the amount the school receives depends on numbers on roll.

Once again, the church was very pleased to welcome members of the PTA and some children to sell cakes they have baked and to raise funds for the school. Parents are continuing to become more engaged with the school community.

The following members of Hertford St Andrew's congregation are on the Governing Body i.e. Laura Ramsay, Rod Willis, Chris Seward, Lyn Payne, Kathy Kennedy and our vicar, Alan, and Jenny Mutch who joined us in March, Stuart Aldridge continues to be the Chair until the end of this academic year when he will be leaving the Governing Body, as will Laura Ramsay. Jenny Mutch has agreed to take over as Foundation Governor for the church. Governors remain committed to working closely with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to monitor all aspects of school life to ensure the best possible outcomes for the school. We continued to hold regular committee, full governing body (FGB) and monitoring meetings throughout the year.

You can find out more about the governors and their role on the school website. Please feel free to speak to myself or any of the governors if you wish to enquire more about the school and/or the opportunities of becoming a member of our highly valued team.

In conclusion, there is a continued emphasis on growth and improvement at Hertford St Andrew where the governors, Headteacher and staff are ambitious and committed to improving and sustaining a thriving environment for all our children.

Laura Ramsay

Foundation Governor

April 2025

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