



Chair's Introduction

Spring Term Focus

Cate Company §

Who's Who on the Governing Body

Our Governing Body meets each term to implement these responsibilities. In addition to these formal meetings there are a series of informal sub-committees dealing with more specific issues, such as resources, school improvement plans and finance. Governors also have a responsibilities for specific curriculum areas with the school such as English,

Ofsted ParentView

Key Takeaways

St Cross Governing Body reviewed the Parent View responses for Sept 14–Aug15.

Response rates were lower than expected, but compared well with other local primary schools. *Governors would like to see more responses this academic year.*

Strongly Agree and Agree responses were higher than the national average, and ranked highly compared to local schools. 100% of parents would recommend St Cross to another parent. *Governors asked for a review of the teaching & learning policy.*

Parent View gives parents the chance to tell Ofsted what they think about their child's school, from the quality of teaching to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. The survey can be completed at any time. It is also the main mechanism for parents to give their views about their child's school to inspectors at the time of a school inspection.

Parents are asked to indicate whether they strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree or don't know in response to 11 short statements.

What have we learned?

Governors are delighted to note that 100% of parents responded that they would recommend St Cross to others. This compares favourably to the national average of 86%. Responses to the questions on safety and pupils

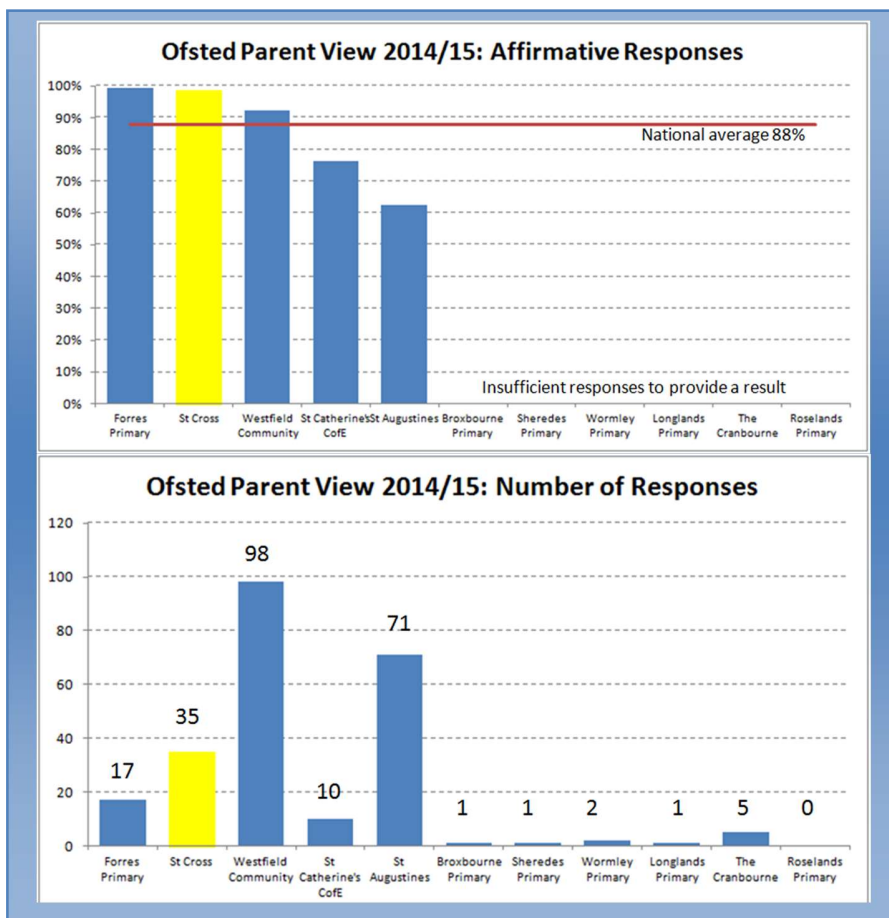
being well looked after have the highest number of strongly agree. Out of 12 questions, only 4 have any disagree responses. There are no responses deemed strongly disagree

The questions with the highest number of disagree responses relate to homework and progress. Governors concluded that the number of 'unknown' responses may be reduced by greater transparency, particularly for curriculum, homework, behaviour, and leadership.

The year group curriculum meetings and the parent workshops on reading will provide additional information to parents, and opportunities to discuss any questions or concerns.

Governors wish to see a higher response rate this year, so conclusions may be more representative of our parents and carers.

What is ParentView?



The questions:

1. My child is happy at this school.
2. My child feels safe at this school.
3. My child makes good progress at this school.
4. My child is well looked after at this school.
5. My child is taught well at this school.
6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age.
7. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.
8. This school deals effectively with bullying
9. This school is well led and managed.
10. This school responds well to any concerns I raise
11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.
12. Would you recommend this school to another parent? Y/N §

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

Our Educational Performance

Key Takeaways

Our increase in KS2 attainment has been maintained in 2015, with all subjects above the national and the county average.

Governors note that attainment levels in KS2 compare strongly with local schools.

The achievement in Phonics is outstanding, with school in the top 5% nationally for the second year running.

Greater progress is to be made in reading, where only 81% of pupils have made 2 or more levels of progress since KS1.

Educational performance data

Both the Department for Education and Ofsted provide reports, dashboards and data on the performance of schools. Many of these reports are publically available via the internet.

The reports cover pupil's attainment and progress in core subjects, their attendance and how well the school is doing for disadvantaged pupils.

They also show how well school is performing compared to national averages and compared to other schools.

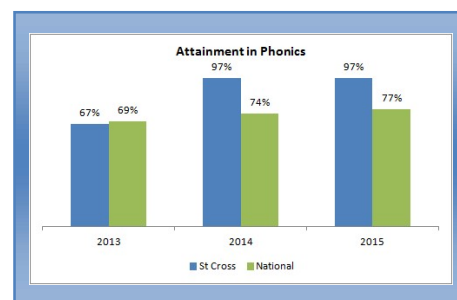
Our Attainment

Key Stage 2 attainment levels in core subjects remains above national and county averages, with 93% of our Yr6 pupils in 2015 achieving a level 4 or above in reading, writing and maths.

The average points score was 30.2 points per pupil, the equivalent of a level 5C. This compares strongly to a national average of 28.8, level 4A, and the local schools.

KS2 Attainment, 2015	Average point score	Average level per pupil
National Avg.	28.8	4A
Sheredes Primary	31.5	5C
Broxbourne CoE	30.4	5C
St Cross	30.2	5C
St Augustines	29.9	4A
St Catherine's	29.4	4A
Westfield	29.2	4A
The Cranbourne	29.1	4A
Forres Primary	28.8	4A
Roselands	28.7	4A

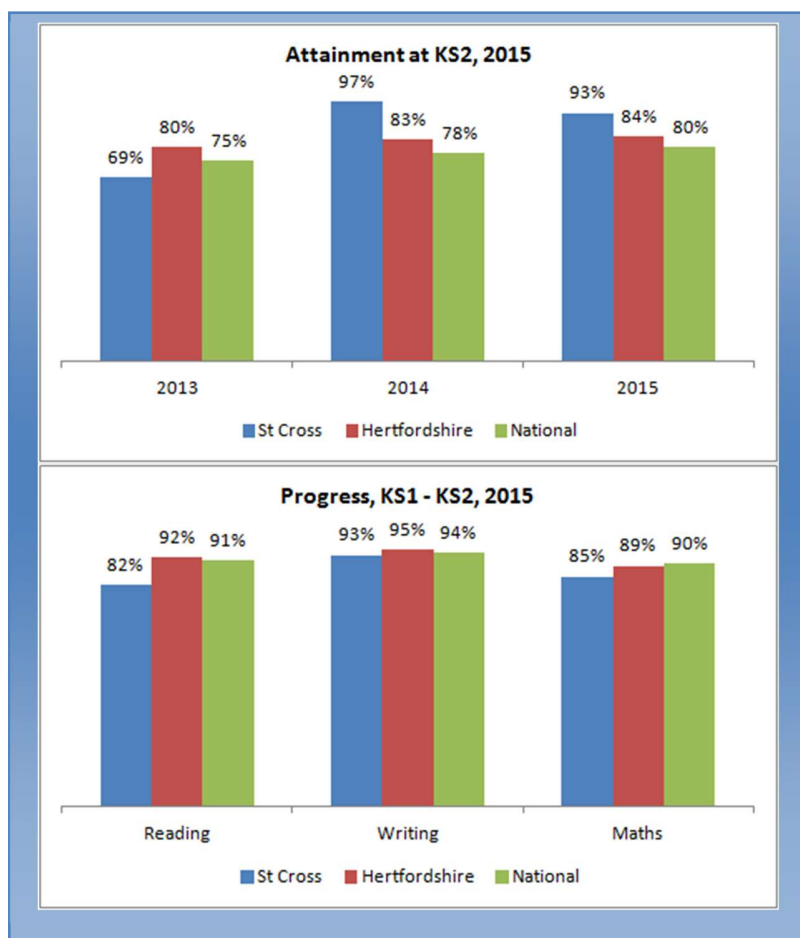
The performance in the Phonic testing was outstanding, with 97% of pupils reaching the expected standard in Yr1.



Expected levels of progress

Expected progress is a measure of school performance across a key stage. For expected progress to be achieved, the pupil must progress through two National Curriculum levels between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Governors have set a priority for school to improve the rates of progress in reading across all year groups. A number of initiatives are already in place, including giving reading corners in classrooms a higher profile, making good use of the new library system, running parent reading workshops to explain how reading is taught in school and providing strategies to support children in their comprehension of texts. §



Our Financial Performance

Key Takeaways

Governors have reviewed financial benchmarking reports for the last financial year, provided by the Education Funding Agency, and concluded we have efficiencies above average when compared to similar schools.

We have been successful in our application to the Diocese of Westminster for funding to make significant improvements to the learning environment. Detailed planning will now commence.

Contributions to the Building Fund and Gift Aid registration will now be a priority.

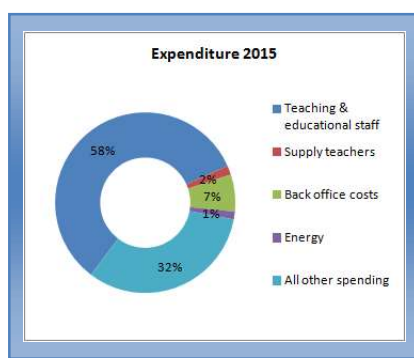
Our current financial performance is in line with our financial plan. Budget setting for 2016/17 is now underway.

What is school 'efficiency'?

In schools, 'value for money' means achieving the best education for children in relation to budget spent on the school.

Governors oversee the financial performance of school, making sure its money is well spent, ensuring investments are delivering the expected outcomes.

The school budget summary is published on the school internet site, showing revenue and expenditure.



Our building plans

The Resources Committee conducted a fresh review of our premises plans in October 2015, as any building maintenance or refurbishment plans will need to be considered in our budget for 2016/17.

Governors continue to express concern about safety, given the main entrance to school is through the car park. Our parents tell us they value the range of extracurricular activities we provide at St Cross, but these can mean more children use the main entrance rather than the Holly Walk gate.

We wish to develop the potential of the old barn, to create a vibrant, new teaching facility which will increase the size of our learning environment. There is no capacity within our main school buildings; every available space is put to good use.

Our welcome area into school, through the main entrance, is a poor reflection set against the high standard of education provided combined with our highly inclusive ethos at St Cross.

The Diocese received applications with a value almost twice the fund they had available to allocate. We are one of only 10 Catholic VA schools to receive an allocation within Hertfordshire.

We will now be working with our specialist educational property consultants to prepare our tendered project for formal approval.

Under the terms of our constitution, the standard rate of grant is 90%, meaning the governing body needs to fund 10% of the total project works. Currently 51% of our families contribute to our Building fund. To maximise the fundraising efforts, the Finance Committee agreed to re-launch the Building fund and to increase the registration for Gift Aid. §

How is school funded?

The funding system for school is based on the dedicated schools grant provided by the local authority, and pupil premium.

Pupil premium is for the benefit of children eligible and registered for free school meals at any time during the last six years, or those who have been in continuous public care for six months. The purpose of pupil premium is to narrow the attainment gaps between those children and their peers. Pupil Premium for 2014/15 amounts to £27,700 for the year.

The **PE and sport premium** is to help primary schools improve the quality of the PE and sports activities offered to pupils. The PE and sports premium received amounts to £10,209.

Financial Benchmarking

The Education Funding Agency has provided a Financial Benchmark report card, capturing school's spending and comparing this to similar schools. As school investments are made in order to deliver educational outcomes, school efficiency is measured as the progress made by pupils relative to the level of income the school receives per pupil.

Measure	Position	Population
DfE Efficiency Metric	4th Decile	50 schools
Average Points Score	3rd Rank	9 schools
Spend per pupil	4th Rank	9 schools
Income per pupil	4th Rank	9 schools

Your Governing Body

Our Constitution

The governing body agrees how to structure committees to fulfil its responsibilities in the most effective way.

Chair: Cate Campany

Vice Chair: Daniel Bartlett

School Improvement Committee

Aim: To hold the Head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.

Chair: David Williams

Resources Committee

Aim: To oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Chair: John Morris

Finance Committee

Aim: To ensure that the school's financial management reflects recognised 'best practice'.

Chair: Paul O'Grady

Personnel Committee

Aim: To agree and oversee the HR policies for Pay, Performance Management and the staffing structure.

Chair: Ula McDonnell

Your Governors

Cate Campany, Foundation Governor.

Daniel Bartlett, Parent Governor

David Williams, LEA Governor

John Morris, Foundation Governor

Kathryn Hall, Head Teacher

Fr Philip Miller, Parish Priest

David Clark, Foundation Governor

Kevin English, Co-opted Governor

Ula McDonnell, Parent Governor

Mark Moran, Associate Governor

Valentina Nolewajka, Foundation Governor

Paul O'Grady, Associate Governor

Tanya Tyler, Foundation Governor

Dawn Spink, Associate Governor

Cassie Burling, Assistant Head Teacher

Emma Williams, Assistant Head Teacher

Anthony Holbourn

Tony Holbourn has stepped down from the governing body, having spent many years supporting school. He was our Chair of Governors from 2009 to 2014, has been an intellectual force on our governing body, with his unmatched mastery of the English language and his breadth of knowledge on all matters relating to school governance. He leaves us with our very best wishes and sincere thanks.

Contact us

For more information about the Governors of St Cross, please visit the school website.

www.stcross.herts.sch.uk

Home > Our Community > Governors

You can contact the governors via the school office or by email to Governor@stcross.herts.sch.uk.

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