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### **Governor's Annual Report 2016 – 2017**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of activity from the Governing Body from the previous school year and to highlight areas of focus for the governors for the coming period.
2. As part of a wider diocesan catholic education strategy the school is now a member of the Samuel Partnership. The partnership encompasses the catholic schools in Swindon, both primary and secondary, and ourselves. The purpose of the partnership is to create stronger ties with the other Catholic schools and to develop a network of mutual support to ensure that all of the schools in the partnership are delivering outstanding catholic education. To date the governors and staff have contributed to a number of initiatives and meetings to begin to deliver improvements in a number of areas. As part of this process we are also investigating the potential for becoming a multi academy trust with the other schools. This proposal has a number of opportunities and risks associated with it and the governors and head teacher are methodically and systematically moving through a process along with the other schools to understand the viability and desirability of such a move.
3. As ever the governing body has been keenly focused on performance of the school in conjunction with the head teacher and the staff. This year saw us being inspected by OFSTED; the award of a good grading is a reflection of a very strong performance from the whole team at the school. As part of the process the staff and governors have learnt some lessons and identified areas for improvement. These are now bound up in a revised school improvement plan and we have put in place some additional governor support to assist the staff in making the improvements required. The school also performed well in the SATS this year; the staff have been proactive in analyzing the results and have already developed strategies for delivering enhancements aligned with the overall school improvement plan. Overall the school continues to deliver a highly effective and enriched all round curriculum for the children which reflects our core values and mission statement; we are always looking to improve the delivery and sustainment of our own high standards.

4. The financial position of the school continues to be a challenge. As has been widely reported elsewhere the funding of education has not kept pace with the costs and this creates budgetary pressure. St Joseph's is not immune to this; the governors, school business manager and head teacher have worked hard to produce a sound and reasonable plan for the school for the next five years. This has presented some issues and we are investigating strategies that see us able to control rising costs against a level income to ensure that the school remains on a sound financial footing for the foreseeable future. The school has gone through a rolling maintenance plan and all significant projects are now behind us, we continue to enjoy excellent support from the PFA and have looked to secure revenue streams from the hire of the facilities to relieve burdens felt elsewhere.

5. For the current year the focus of the Governing Body will remain on delivering the school improvement plan in conjunction with the staff. There will continue to be developing strategies and initiatives from the Samuel Partnership which will require our attention. The financial plan will be monitored closely to ensure that we remain within our means. The Governing Body is currently going through a recruitment phase as we replace some departing members, we will work with our new volunteers to develop them as governors through the year.

6. The work of the governors encompasses a wide range of duties and responsibilities for which we are wholly reliant on the skills, time and support of the existing governors to deliver the necessary framework within which the school can successfully operate. I am very grateful for their continued efforts and enthusiasm for the whole school. The school has continued to move forward throughout the year. We all appreciate the effort, professionalism and care that the whole staff, very ably led by Mrs Christopher, bring to bear to make the experience of being a pupil at St Joseph's such an enjoyable and rewarding one.

*PJ O'Brien*

PJ O'BRIEN  
Chair of Governors