

Annual Governance Impact Statement for the Governing Board of St Laurence Church Infant School

September 2023

Strategic Function

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all Governing Boards, the 3 core strategic functions of the school's Governing Board are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, values and strategic direction;
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school.

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Board's Instrument of Governance states that the Board shall comprise of:

- 2 elected Parent governors;
- 1 Local Authority governor;
- 1 Staff governor;
- 3 Foundation governors agreed by the Parochial Church Council;
- 3 Foundation governors agreed by the Diocese;
- The Ex-Officio governor which is the incumbent of St Laurence Church, Northfield
- The Headteacher.

The period of office for each governor is 4 years. The Ex-Officio governor is currently a vacancy due to the interregnum of the church.

Attendance Record of Governors

The record of governors' attendance is available on the school website. No meeting has been cancelled due to it not being quorate. Governors have visited the school to review specific areas of children's learning and safeguarding.

Work of the Whole Governing Board

The Governing Board strives to undertake its responsibilities in the areas of ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction, holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school, and overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

In order to streamline the work of the Governing Board, the decision was made to trial for a period of one academic year, removing the Finance Staffing and Site Committee and the Curriculum, Safeguarding and Pupil Welfare Committee and bringing their work

under the Whole Governing Board who would meet eight times during the year. This structure will allow all governors to be involved in all aspects of the strategic work, and will eliminate repetition of work between those committees and the whole board.

As in previous years, during the past year, the members of the Governing Board have fulfilled the following responsibilities:

They have ensured clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction by:

- Looking at the schools' long term aims and how to achieve them;
- Keeping the Christian ethos of the school, and the vision to enable all to have a "Love of learning, life and each other." at the heart of all decisions made.
- Reviewing the pupil outcomes and information provided by the Head Teacher in her reports;
- Undertaking independent assessments of the effectiveness of the schools through designated Governors' visits;
- Ascertaining areas for improvement following review of progress data;
- Reviewing the School Development Plan to ensure that the above aims are met.
- Ensuring that both pupil and staff wellbeing are given priority.

They have held the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school by:

- Challenging the Head Teacher in relation to the pupil outcomes;
- Monitoring progress of the School Development Plan;
- Monitoring pupil standards;
- Ensuring that their own work enables them to be held accountable for their decisions and actions, ie, their decisions are transparent and based on the best available information.

They have overseen the financial performance of the school and made sure its money was well spent:

- By receiving, scrutinising and challenging finance reports from the Schools' Executive Financial Consultant
- By ensuring that they keep abreast of developments in school funding and are looking at ways of mitigating the impact of any changes to funding;
- By ensuring that all financial decisions are made with due regard to financial regulations, impact and within funding levels
- By ensuring that all statutory and recommended best practice documentation is in place (eg, SFVS, Statement of Internal Controls etc).
- By keeping the projected budget out-turn under review, in conjunction with staffing levels and overall expenditure - This has had to be in the context of the lack of accurate financial and personnel information being available due to the Local Authority implementation of Oracle system..

In addition to the above, Governors have also remained focused on ensuring that the school site is safe and well maintained, and have provided funding for pupil welfare projects including "Wellbeing Wednesday" and a Play Therapist.

Governors have been reminded to access Learning Link training to develop their knowledge and skills.

Future Plans for the Governors

Looking to the future, the school continues to face challenges in relation to finances and pupil attainment. The Governing Board will be closely monitoring the budget and academic outcomes for groups of children, holding the Head Teacher and themselves to account for these to ensure that the quality provision can continue to grow.

How you can contact the Governing Board

Suggestions and feedback are always welcome, please contact the Chair of the Governing Board (Rick Hill) via the Clerk (Flavia Highfield), or by speaking to the School Office or the Head Teacher. Further information about the Governing Board can be found on the Governors' page of the school website: <https://www.stlrnci.bham.sch.uk/governors/>

Approved Governing Board minutes (with the exception of any confidential items) are available for inspection in the school.

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