

**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21**  
**ST ANNE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Introduction.**

As the Governing Board of St Anne's RC Primary School, we are proud of the school and its welcoming, inclusive ethos and strong family atmosphere.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the Governing Board at St Anne's RC Primary School are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

**Governance Structure**

The Governing Board is made up of 12 Governors as follows:

- 2 Parent Governors appointed by ballot of the parents at the school
- 1 Local Authority Governor appointed by the Local Authority
- 1 Staff Governor appointed by ballot of the staff
- 1 Headteacher
- 7 Foundation Governors appointed with approval of the Diocese by based on a skills audit

During this last year 1 new Foundation Governor has been appointed to replace a governor who has resigned. There is currently a vacancy for a Staff Governor. The Parish Priest is an exifico member of the Full Governing Board and is a Foundation Governor.

The Governing Board appoints a Clerk through a SLA with the Local Authority. The Clerk is responsible for arranging meetings, taking minutes and following up on all actions. The Clerk also advises on procedural matters and plays a role in the work of the Governing Board.

Governors are volunteers who apply for and are appointed to their roles (except for the Headteacher), are independent and have equal status to each other. A Chair and a Vice Chair are elected annually by the Governing Board and work closely together with the Headteacher and the Clerk.

The Full Governing Board meets once each term. The Finance and Personnel Committee and the Curriculum and Standards Committee meets once a term. The Governing Board also has a Pay and a Pay Appeals Committee which meets annually and Premises and Health and Safety Committee which meets termly.

The overall attendance record of Governors has been very good, and every meeting has been quorate during the school year. Details of the attendance of school Governors are published on the school website under 'About Us'. Governor attendance is monitored at Full Governing Boards each term.

The Headteacher's Appraisal Committee is supported by an external advisor. Additionally, there is a facility to bring together small panel/committees as and when needed. The Governing Board and the committees all have terms of reference which are reviewed annually and all Governors are required to abide by a Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is reviewed annually and Governors sign a copy to confirm their acceptance to abide by it. Governors declare any Pecuniary or Business Interests at the first autumn term of the year and any PIs are recorded on the school website. Governors' declarations of interest are checked at the start of each Full Governing Board and or Committee meeting. The Governing Board has a Collaborative Agreement with a local RC Primary school to provide back up support for Appeal or Hearing panels.

**Governing Board Skills & Knowledge Development**

The Governing Board recognises that to effectively fulfil its role, it must ensure that all of its Governors have the required skills and knowledge to support the achievement of the school's priority objectives. Recognising the importance of training and development, the Governing Board has a Training Link Governor to ensure there is a committed and consistent focus on the areas where the Governing Board needs to develop. Skills audits are undertaken to identify and address any skills gaps.

### **Governor Focus in Academic Year 2020-21**

At the beginning of the school year, the Governing Board agreed with the Headteacher and the School Leadership Team a School Improvement Plan. This annual planning document is used to identify the key areas on which the school and the Governing Board wish to focus during the academic year. It includes scheduled milestones and measures to assist with ongoing monitoring as well as impact indicators so that the Governing Board can assure itself that the actions taken within the plan will improve teaching and learning outcomes for all children. In addition to school monitoring visits, the Governing Board uses other school data including, SATS results, Local Authority data, government data (Analyse School Performance), Phonics Screening Check, Baseline Assessment, the Ofsted Data Dashboard and regular internal school assessment data. Pupil progress and attainment is scrutinised through data analysis. Vulnerable groups including pupil premium and SEN children are closely monitored. During the 2018/19 academic year, the school continued to realise significant funding issues brought on by Government changes to school funding. A financial plan was put in place to ensure the impact to pupils will be reduced.

Also consider including:

- Improvements to the school building
- Monitoring Visits undertaken
- Governors attendance at all school training
- Involvement in recruitment
- HT Report

### **Assessment of Impact.**

Governors provide a high level of challenge to the Headteacher and the school. They consider a range of documents and data provided by the school in order to judge the impact of strategies within the school. Governors visit school to meet with staff to gain a greater understanding of the school and the on-going requirement to raise standards. The Governors were delighted school continued to be judged as 'Good' by Ofsted in October 2017.

Governors monitor finance stringently to ensure the school's budget is spent to achieve the best possible outcomes for students. The school provides good value for money.

### **Governor focus areas for 2020/21**

The Governing Board will continue:

- To provide a high level of challenge to the Headteacher and the school
- Visit school to monitor the quality of education and the personal development, behaviour and welfare of pupils
- Arrange visits with relevant members of school staff to discuss their particular focus area ahead of Full Governing Board meetings

### **Contact details.**

The Governing Board welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact in writing the Chair of Governors c/o the School.

This was approved at the Full Governing Board on 18 March 2021