

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of
Christ Church Charnock Richard Church of England
Primary School 2021-2022**

The Governing Board is an integral part of the leadership of this school, with the vital role of setting the strategic direction and developing the Christian ethos of the school to ensure that every child who attends Christ Church CE Primary School has the very best educational opportunities and experience, where they are happy, able to thrive and flourish, gaining in confidence and achieve excellence in body, mind and spirit.

The Governing Board has a collective passion for education being ambitious for all our children and has a commitment to continuous school improvement that enables the best possible outcomes.

Robust accountability, assurance and oversight of the financial and educational performance of the school leadership team is a key responsibility of the Governing Board.

Governors work collaboratively with the Headteacher, school staff, the Parochial Church Council, Blackburn Diocese and the Local Education Authority to realise the mission statement that stimulates and motivates our thinking and actions for every aspect of school life:

“Inspired to learn, grow and flourish within our Christian family”

Whilst the Headteacher is responsible for the day to day management of the school; the Board of Governors has an important strategic oversight in three core areas:

Setting Strategic Direction

Clarity of vision and ethos

Engaging stakeholders

Ensuring statutory duties are met

Ensuring Accountability

Accountability for quality of teaching, achievement, attainment, behaviours and safety

Strengthening, challenging and supporting school leadership

Performance management of the Headteacher

Contributing to the school's self-evaluation process

Maintaining Financial Propriety

Ensuring that resources are allocated to strategic priorities as identified in the School Improvement Plan, safeguarding the highest standards of financial propriety, making sure money is well spent.

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Board has 12 members made up as follows:

Parent Governors: 2

Headteacher: 1

Staff Governor: 1

Local Authority Governor: 1

Foundation Governors: 6 (3 elected by the Diocese and 3 by the PCC)

Ex-officio: 1 (currently vacant)

The full Governing Board meets four times per academic year and has three standing working committees:

Curriculum and Standards: curricular provision, pupil achievement and attainment, assessment, target setting and attendance

Resources: finance, staffing, premises, health and safety

Vision, Values and Ethos: Church school distinctiveness and the Christian foundation

These committees meet once each term and report to the full Governing Board. There is the provision for committees to convene more frequently, if required, to consider for example pupil discipline matters, staffing appeals, complaints.

In March 2020 a new committee was convened to support the Headteacher and staff as they followed Government guidelines and made plans for during and after lockdown with homeschooling and the phased return of pupils to school through the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. This Committee has been 'stood down' at the moment but is ready to reconvene should the need arise.

The Chair of Governors has had regular telephone and face to face meetings with the Headteacher. Governors with specific responsibilities (e.g. SEND, Safeguarding, subject links) have met via telephone, Zoom and towards the end of the academic year face to face as appropriate with staff to gain a deeper understanding of particular strengths of areas for development and to gain working knowledge of how strategies or interventions are being implemented.

Regular Governor training is an important part of the Governors' role. Training can be delivered in-house, through qualified external providers and online learning.

The Headteacher, Mrs Helen Brooks is a key governor. A full list of Governors, their terms of office, positions of responsibility and attendance is published on the school website

Assessment and Impact of the Governing Board during 2020-2021

Full Governing Board

Governors have ensured the delegation of duties and monitoring and reporting arrangements for the academic year, including the use of a professional clerk to the Governing Board.

The Governing Board has been strengthened through training, succession planning and the recruitment process to ensure a diversity of perspectives with good induction of new governors including mentoring.

Ensuring that there is a collective understanding and a clear vision about the role of governors and the Christian ethos and strategic direction of the school, revisiting our ‘Mission Statement’ at the start of each academic year with reference to it throughout the year.

Overseeing the financial performance of the school, through forensic scrutiny of documentation produced by LCC, making sure that money was well spent (value for money) for the benefit of all pupils, looking to ensure continuous school improvement, especially with extra costs encountered due to the pandemic.

The Governing Board has recruited staff and agreed flexible working practices for staff returning from maternity leave to ensure high quality, conscientious and dedicated staff are retained and supported.

Holding the Headteacher to account for progress, attainment and actions to achieve the school’s agreed key priorities. Ensuring that the same rigorous analysis of pupil performance was maintained, that intervention strategies were applied as appropriate, allowing pupils to achieve and attain the very best that they could, even though for many children there was still disruption due to the Coronavirus pandemic where some time was spent without physical in class teaching. This was achieved through external verification through Ofsted, LCC adviser, Diocesan adviser, scrutiny of documents, various visits into school and pupil and parent feedback

Further development and management of the school site and outdoor facilities (particularly the completion of the air source pump, new gas boiler and solar panels, internal Wi-Fi refurbishment, staff ICT equipment to support 1-1 iPad learning, refurbishment of Foundation Stage storage and flooring) to enhance provision and support continuing improvements in teaching and learning.

Ensuring that appropriate arrangements remain in place for the continuation of educational provision during the uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic, that there is a strong, challenging but achievable and sensible recovery plan that considers the health and well-being of the 'whole' child and the well-being of all staff.

Ensuring that the school carried out its statutory duties by confirming safeguarding processes for all of the children was maintained and the wellbeing of staff and pupils monitored during the current pandemic situation, enabling the reopening of school to all children.

Curriculum and Standards Committee

The impact of this committee has been to hold the Headteacher and senior leaders to account for the progress and attainment of pupils including the support provided for identified groups to ensure all pupils are challenged and supported to achieve the best they can be.

The Headteacher is held to account for the standards in school by Governors questioning any trends in data and monitoring the effectiveness of strategies put in place to support learning. Updated information provides clarity and enables Governors to have meaningful discussions of curriculum standards and future planning. The excellent Ofsted report received this year acknowledged the high standards provided by school to ensure the best educational outcomes.

Information and evaluation reports enable Governors to ensure that as a result of the pandemic the curriculum provided would meet the needs of children in school. Providing appropriate recovery actions and interventions to address gaps in learning and support requirements.

Further development of digital learning platforms and IT provision has been supported by the Governors. Regular reports from the IT coordinator are received giving details of developments and the impact on teaching and learning across the school. The continuing focus of Key priority 3 built on enhanced skills for both pupils and staff embedding blended learning.

An effective and relevant School Improvement Plan is agreed by this committee working closely with the Headteacher and staff ensuring key priorities are identified with clear aims, actions and success criteria. Specific focus has been given to key priority 1 to improve the attainment in writing. Termly progress reports with evaluations are received, enabling the

Governing Body to discuss with the senior leadership the potential focus areas for development.

The impact of this committee has been to ensure effective and relevant key priorities are progressing particularly with regard to current circumstances. The continuing success of “The Art of Brilliance “ programme and its positive impact across the whole school curriculum has been recognised nationally. Focus on Key priority 2, to use our Christian ethos to drive wellbeing and mental health for the whole school community and integration with PSHE has underpinned the schools successful return after the challenges and disruption of the pandemic since March 2020.

Governors statutory responsibilities are met by ensuring all safeguarding guidance is current and up to date systems are in place. The designated safeguarding governor meets the Headteacher termly to monitor progress of the schools safeguarding processes. The impact is to ensure robust safeguarding and child protection procedures are in place across the whole school community. This was verified by our recent Ofsted inspection.

Termly reports are received for identified groups SEND and PP ensuring the same rigorous analysis of pupil performance is maintained for all pupils.

Review of policies and plans related to curriculum standards are presented to this committee to ensure they are fit for purpose through scrutiny of documents. Evaluation of policies provide evidence on the impact on pupils' learning, attainment and progress.

Resources Committee

The impact of this committee has been to ensure sound financial management and robust accountability which has established a sustainable budget strategy in terms of reserves for the next three years

Also through high standards of financial probity accredited through the Schools Financial Value Standard and effective benchmarking processes, long term financial stability has been secured.

Through effective budget setting linked to the School Improvement Plan Governors have ensured spending provides good value for money, effectively benefiting the learning outcomes of all pupils and raising overall standards.

Staffing levels remain good and appropriate for the school's needs with professional investment in all the staff's professional development needs to further support continued school improvement.

Targeted funding decisions to maintain, enhance and further develop the safe learning environment of the school with a rolling programme of redecoration, replacement of furniture and general maintenance of the premises including ICT provision.

Specific individual projects include the installation of a new low carbon heating system (identified through completion of the DfE's 'Good Estate Management' survey)

Through this committee's review of key policies and plans ensures that they remain fit for purpose and adhered to. These include ensuring that the school complies with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Asbestos Management Assurance Process (AMAP) and coherent and workable School Continuity Plan and School COVID-19 Plan.

Also through Health and Safety monitoring, which includes a governor accompanying Headteacher and caretaker on walk through school supports the identification of areas for improvement ensuring a safe and appropriate learning and working environment

Vision, Values and Ethos Committee

The impact of this committee has been to maintain our focus on our distinctively Christian foundation and to support, advise, develop and challenge our effectiveness as a church school and the influence this has on pupils, staff, parents and the wider community.

By supporting the many spiritual, moral, social and cultural experiences on offer at school (up and above the National Curriculum) Governors ensure that the whole child develops in 'body, mind and spirit', becoming happy, confident and resilient young people ready to positively face the challenges of an ever changing world.

Support of the preparations made by staff for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

The impact of this committee has been to focus on the School Improvement Plan, specifically Key Priority 2 “To use our Christian ethos to drive the well-being and mental health of the whole school”. Building on the work done specifically in the bespoke PSHE programme and through the work of the ‘Art of Brilliance’ project, Christian Values have been explicitly linked and integrated throughout the curriculum and wider school life.

Focus remains on the revised RE curriculum and the incorporation of the language of the revised syllabus into worship resulting in high quality RE lessons and engaging and meaningful worship. The RE Quality Mark Gold was external recognition of the outstanding work done in this curriculum area that permeates all other curriculum areas.

The impact of the outstanding, carefully designed and delivered Enrichment Days including a visit from Bishop Philip and motivational speaker and facilitator Stuart Lawrence cannot be underestimated with Governors in full support of these days.

This committee is involved with the School’s Ethos group, a valuable link for the pupils to engage with Governors and for Governors to engage with pupils.

Ensuring the essence of Christian ethos, values and vision runs through the school, especially by maintaining and developing the school’s Christian foundation through the provision of outstanding religious education, daily worship and close ties with Christ Church church and wider community.