

# Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of Christ Church Charnock Richard CE Primary School 2017-18

## Role of the Governing Board

The Governing Board is an intrinsic part of the leadership of a school, providing strategic direction, robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance. Governors work in close collaboration with the Headteacher, school staff, Local Education Authority and Blackburn Diocese to promote high standards of educational achievement and to realise our mission statement –

*‘pupils learn and grow, achieving their full potential within the school setting, as part of the Christian family and as members of the wider community.’*

Whilst the Headteacher is responsible for the day to day management of the school, the Board of Governors has an important strategic role, with specific responsibilities in three core areas:

### Setting Strategic Direction

- Ensuring clarity of vision and ethos
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Making sure statutory duties are met.

### Creating Robust Accountability

- Accountability for teaching, achievement, behaviour and safety
- Strengthening and supporting school leadership
- Performance managing the Headteacher
- Contributing to school self-evaluation.

### Ensuring Financial Probity

- Making sure the school’s money is well spent
- Monitoring the use of the Pupil Premium grant and other resources to overcome barriers to learning.

## Governance Arrangements

The governing board has 12 members and is made up as follows:

- **Parent Governors:** 2
- **Headteacher:** 1
- **Staff Governor:** 1
- **Local Authority Governor:** 1
- **Foundation:** 6 (appointed by Blackburn Diocese, 3 nominated by Principal Officiating Minister and 3 by the Parochial Church Council)
- **Ex-officio** 1 (vacant at present)

The full Governing Board meets four times a year and has three working committees to consider specific aspects of the school in detail.

- **Curriculum and Standards** - curricular provision, pupil achievement, assessment, target setting and attendance
- **Resources** - finance, staffing, premises, health and safety
- **Vision, Values and Ethos** - church school distinctiveness and Christian foundation

These committees meet once each term and report to the full Governing Board. There are also committees convened, if required, to consider pupil discipline, staffing appeals and complaints.

The Chair of Governors has regular meetings with the Headteacher. Those governors with specific responsibilities, (e.g. SEND, Safeguarding and core subjects) meet as appropriate with staff and subject leaders to gain deeper understanding of particular strengths or areas for development and to gain working knowledge of how strategies or interventions are being implemented.

A list of Governors, their terms of office and positions of responsibility is published on the school website, along with Governors' attendance record.

## **Assessment and Impact of the Governing Board during 2017-18**

### **Full Governing Board**

- Effective School Improvement Plan (SIP) agreed by the Governing Board and Headteacher, following identification of Key Priorities based on analysis of data, school self-evaluation and school's vision, values and ethos. Clear aims, actions, time frames and success criteria detailed.
- Regular monitoring and review of SIP implementation. Progress reported by Headteacher termly, with evaluation of outcomes at end of the academic year. This academic year, monitoring Key Priority 4, the Vision, Values and Ethos Committee met with the RE subject leader to discuss progress and teacher feedback on the introduction of the new RE curriculum.
- Constructive partnership, asking challenging questions and investigating data to raise standards. In January 2018, governors undertook training to develop knowledge and understanding of the new system "Analyse School Performance", to effectively scrutinise the more detailed data which is now available.
- Strategic oversight of financial performance, to ensure money is well spent, linked to the long-term development plan and strategic direction of the school. The Governing Board has taken into careful consideration the introduction of the new National Funding Formula, making provision for future developments and setting a sustainable budget.

- Monitoring of discharge of delegated responsibilities and duties. Update of statutory school policies, in line with national guidance. In 2018, school procedures were reviewed following the introduction of GDPR, to ensure compliance.
- Effective Board membership maintained through review and skills audit, ensuring a wide range of governor skills and experience. During the academic year, two parent governors have been elected and a local authority governor and PCC governor successfully recruited to fill posts when terms of office expired.
- Positive Engagement. Governor Morning 2018 focused on phonics and spelling, aspects of Key Priority 2. Governors gained first-hand experience of strategies used in KS1 and KS2 classrooms. Over the year, governors attended worship, assemblies, sports, musical and fundraising events, as well as accompanying pupils on class trips and excursions. This afforded the opportunity to appraise the wider life of the school and to engage more fully with pupils, staff and parents.

### **Resources Committee**

- Sound financial management and robust accountability to ensure that adequate staffing and resources are in place to deliver the curriculum and enrichment activities in an appropriate learning environment for the children of this school.
- Effective budget setting linked to the School Improvement Plan to ensure spending is managed effectively to benefit learning outcomes of our pupils.
- High standards of financial probity accredited through Schools Financial Value Standard and effective benchmarking process.
- Targeted funding decisions to maintain, enhance and further develop the 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 included replacement ceiling lighting, artificial grass between KS1 and KS2 playgrounds, Woodland garden improvements and installation of emergency 'lockdown' bell.
- Realisation of long-held plan to build an additional classroom following school expansion to straight age classes in KS 2 in October 2017.
- Review of effective use of sports funding to further inspire and up-skill teaching staff and pupils and strategic vision for multi-use games area (MUGA) partly funded from school reserves and sports funding (2018-2019).
- Targeted funding for enhanced enrichment activities specifically in Science with the impact of increased pupil participation in various musical activities and the award of the Science quality mark.
- Monitoring use of Pupil Premium grant, ensuring it is deployed effectively with most of our disadvantaged children making good progress.
- Regular reviews of key policies and plans ensuring that they remain fit for purpose. 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 Emergency Lockdown Plan

- Effective performance and pay reviews along with recruitment of staff to deliver quality education and support school improvement.
- Health and Safety monitoring, which included a governor accompanying Headteacher and caretaker on walk through school to identify areas for improvement.

### **Curriculum and Standards Committee**

- Effective monitoring of pupil performance through detailed analysis of data with consideration given to different groups, e.g. boy/girl, pupil premium and SEND. This is used to inform and lead school improvement planning.
- Enhanced data provision giving governors a clearer and more detailed understanding of attainment and progress data. Governors question any trends in data and monitor the effectiveness of strategies put in place to support children's learning.
- Use of A.S.P. (Analyse School Performance) and external data to investigate school performance standards and to benchmark against other schools nationally.
- Regular review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities provision with termly reports from the co-ordinator, giving data on attainment and progress, attendance and actions implemented.
- Governors monitor and ask challenging questions regarding the key priorities on the School Improvement Plan. This ensures the Governing Board knows throughout the year how the school is progressing towards the identified priorities and targets. Raising the profile of Science across the school has been one of the key priorities this year. Through the Subject leader's reports and action plans, governors have noted the significant developments and achievements in this area. The school has achieved the Primary Science Quality Mark. Examples of the many practical science activities include introduction of Science Ambassadors in each class, extra-curricular activities including Zoo Lab and Mad Science after school club, science quiz for local primary schools hosted in school, science morning, termly science newsletters for parents and science based visits to local secondary school for some classes.
- Monitoring the delivery of an enriched curriculum, with targeted funding decisions to support opportunities for enrichment and extra-curricular activities. Governors have been pleased by the range of enrichment activities pupils have experienced during the year, which have included Spanish day, Owls visit, Time capsule, court visit, Skipping John, BFG theatre performance. Raising the profile of Music, in particular singing, has been a focus this year. There has been a significant increase in the choir numbers and an enthusiasm for singing throughout school. The choir has performed at numerous of events both in and out of school throughout the year with many positive comments received from visitors. Several governors have gained additional insight into impact by attending various events and accompanying school trips.
- Review of safeguarding responsibilities and guidance to ensure currency and compliance. The Child Protection Policy was updated and adopted by the Governing Body 7.11.17. The designated Governor for Safeguarding met with the Headteacher to discuss the implementation and impact of revised policy and procedures. Feedback at Governor meetings means the Governing Body is kept abreast of their responsibilities with regard to the latest requirements.

**Vision, Values and Ethos Committee**

- The impact of this committee has been to refresh our focus on our distinctly Christian foundation and to support, advise and challenge our effectiveness as a church school and the influence this has on pupils, staff, parents and the wider community.
- Focus has been on the implementation of the revised RE curriculum and the incorporation of the language of the revised syllabus into worship.
- Self-evaluation process begun, feeding into development of a 3 year plan.
- Enhanced monitoring through attendance at Worship and School Eucharist, with opportunity to discuss with and observe the involvement of school Ethos group.

**Agreed by the Governing Board on:** .....

**Signed by the Chair:** .....