

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of
ST James Lanehead C of E Primary School
School Year 2019-2020**

Role of the Governing Board

The role of the governing board in a local authority maintained school is set out in education law, namely to 'conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement'. The board also has a legal responsibility to promote pupil wellbeing. It does this by:

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| Setting Strategic Direction | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensuring clarity of vision and ethos- Engaging with stakeholders- Making sure statutory duties are met. |
| Creating Robust Accountability and | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Accountability for teaching, achievement, behaviour safety- Strengthening and supporting school leadership- Performance managing the Headteacher- Contributing to school self-evaluation. |
| Ensuring Financial Probity | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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 is made up as follows:

- **Parent Governors: 2**
- **Headteacher : 1**
- **Staff Governor: 1**
- **Local Authority Governor: 1**
- **Foundation: 7**

The full Governing Board meets once per term and Governors also meet at least termly as committees to consider various aspects of the school in detail. At St. James Lanehead C of E Primary School we have the following committees:

- Resources Committee (Finance,Staffing,Premises, health and Safety)
- Curriculum and Pupil Welfare Committee (Curriculum. Pupil Welfare, Policies)
- Standards and Effectiveness Committee(Standards,effectiveness of leadership and management,school improvement)

Governors also visit school regularly to meet pupils and staff, in addition to monitoring specific aspects of the curriculum or areas such as SEN and safeguarding.

There are also committees that meet, if required, to consider pupil discipline, staffing appeals and complaints.

A list of Governors, their terms of office and positions of responsibility is attached as Appendix 1 or published on the school website and can be accessed by [clicking here](#)

Governors' Attendance Record

Governing boards make decisions collectively, though they may choose to delegate responsibility to committees, or individuals (including the Headteacher). Attending Governing Board meetings is an essential part of a governor's role and the attendance record for the governors of our school is good. This ensures that all governors receive the necessary information all at the same time and therefore important and informed decisions can be made as and when necessary on all aspects of the school, staff and pupils.

The attendance record for all governors is published on the school website and can be accessed by [clicking here](#)

Assessment and Impact of the Governing Board during 2019-2020 School Year

Resources Committee

The resources committee's role is to oversee how resources are used to provide and deliver the curriculum, with appropriate staff, in a safe environment making sure that all pupils receive the best education possible, including those who are disadvantaged or have special needs. The committee discuss and agree how the school plans to spend its budget over the next financial year, with a focus on school improvement, and monitor how school money is spent at its termly meetings.

In the autumn term a small group of governors undertook the headteachers performance review with the support of the school advisor. The Pay Committee also met to consider and agree pay progression for teaching staff, including senior leaders, subject to good performance. The appointment of high quality teaching staff is always a priority and governors take part in appointments of existing staff to any internal positions as well as the appointment of new staff.

Standards and Effectiveness Committee

This committee's role is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of leadership and management as well as monitor of pupils' progress and attainment, including analysis of children's progress across all year groups at the termly meetings and we challenge senior leaders. This includes comparisons with other schools both locally and nationally. The headteacher provides a termly report on the quality of teaching and the performance of middle management, subject development is monitored to ensure consistency across the school. Health and wellbeing of all the staff is discussed and strategies put in place where necessary.

Curriculum and Pupil Welfare Committee

The curriculum and pupil welfare committee's role is to have oversight of the school's curriculum and the implementation of the schools development plan. The committee also monitors attendance, behaviour and pupil welfare and has responsibility for parental and community links and engagement. Policies which are identified within the schools policy review are developed or renewed .Assessment and improvement is monitored and evaluated for all groups of vulnerable children to insure their needs are identified and met. Pupil behaviour, discipline and attendance is monitored termly, a report on safeguarding and child protection is presented termly to the committee. Schools engagement with the local church and community is reported on termly.

Full Governing Board

In addition to their monitoring visits governors attend school/class events and this helps to build relationships with children, staff and families. They also attend external educational visits with the children and staff. The Governing Board receive regular reports from the nominated governors in their subject and on the effectiveness of safeguarding and provision for SEND children.

Following the closure of the school to most pupils due to the COVID-19 pandemic the board continued to support the school's leadership team and scrutinised the plans and actions to satisfy themselves that appropriate education provision arrangements were in place for children at home as well as and on-site.

In the summer term, due to the change in which the way the governing board had agreed to operate, the Board, rather than the resources committee reviewed and considered the schools financial position and agreed the budget for 2020/21 with a view to ensure the financial stability of the school and that expenditure achieved value for money.

The health safety and wellbeing of staff and pupils, including the safeguarding of vulnerable pupils is of the highest priority both in the early stages of the pandemic and also as the school prepared to open to a wider number of pupils and for the new academic year in September. Following the advice of Lancashire Education Authority and the Diocese Board of Education vital decision were made, this included the agreement of investment in additional hygiene

equipment and increased cleaning provision to provide as safe as possible environment for pupils and staff on their return to school.

Governors Training

All new governors are attending induction training and experienced governors have attended training on special education needs, data protection, safeguarding (all governors) . Trainings are now carried out via zoom calls and most of the Governors have attended these. Governors are recruited following a robust procedure. All Governors have roles within the board and are encouraged to take an active role.

Future Plans for Continuous Improvement

Areas for governors to work on with senior leaders over the next year to continue the excellent work to date includes :.

- Further develop the curriculum implementation leading to pupils gaining the knowledge and skills needed for their future learning.
- Ensuring the correct support is in place for the wellbeing of the children and staff
- To embed the schools vision within the Governing Board and the school and continuing to enforce the ethos, Christian and British values in all decision making.

Agreed by the Governing Board on: 23rd September 2020