

## St John's Church of England School, Church Street, Blackpool

### Governing Board Annual Statement 2017-18

The following observation was recorded by OFSTED following their last visit to our school on 15th December 2015:

*"Leaders' and governors' evaluation of strengths and areas for further development is clear and incisive and based on a wide range of evidence. It supports good-quality planning for improvement."*

*"Governors have a good understanding of the performance of the school because they are kept well informed with reports from leaders, look at information about pupils' progress carefully and ask challenging questions." (Ofsted 2015)*

The following observation was recorded in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report 9th February 2017:-

*"The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Blackpool St. John's as a Church of England school are **outstanding.**"*

*"The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is **outstanding** at meeting the needs of all learners."*

*"The impact of collective worship on the school community is **outstanding.**"*

*"The effectiveness of the religious education is **outstanding.**"*

*"The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is **outstanding.**"*

*"The Christian vision of the headteacher, senior leadership team and the governors drives the school forward."*

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Governing Board of St John's C of E 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 and for the performance management of the staff;**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

This Annual Statement is prepared in accordance with current Department of Education guidance which states:

*"It is good practice for the Governing Board to publish an annual governance statement to explain how it has fulfilled its responsibilities"*

### **Publication of Governance Arrangements**

In the interests of transparency, a school/academy must publish on its website up to-date details of its governance arrangements in a readily accessible format.

This statement therefore is to explain how the Governing Board has fulfilled its responsibilities as defined by Government supported by the Local Authority and Blackburn Diocese.

### **Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**

Mrs Karen Blackburn (Chair) and Mr Gary Hope (Vice Chair) were re-appointed for another 2 years as part of the two year cycle.

### **Membership**

Mrs Sally Hume, Staff Governor, resigned from the Governing Board as Miss Adele Johnston expressed an interest and was appointed on 20 November 2017.

Dr John Smith resigned as Foundation Governor for personal reasons on 23.1.18.

The terms of office for Mr John Tyler and Mr Hugh Gillick as Foundation Governors ended on 31 August 2018. Both had confirmed they would not stand for a further term and so arrangements would be made to fill both appointments from 01 September 2018.

Mr Gary Hope was re-elected for a further Term of Office as a Foundation Governor on 19 March 2018.

Mrs Hayley Aris was appointed as a Parent Governor on 19 February 2018.

### **Curriculum & Standards Committee – to monitor the effectiveness of standards, including teaching, curriculum and the wellbeing of pupils.**

This committee scrutinizes the School Development Action Plan to ensure teaching is broadly based but is also focused on areas of specific need.

We also see the feedback from pupil and parent surveys and questionnaires.

### **Resources Committee – to cover the business side of the school, including staffing, finance and premises management.**

The Governing Board has been trained in School Finance Management and Governors have worked with school staff to achieve The Schools Financial Value Standard accreditation.

The impact of the Governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective and continuous. Governor expertise – the Governors bring a wide variety of expertise to the school and this helps to ensure the school is moving forward.

The following Governors were appointed to committees:

Rev S Haskett - Resources

Ms D Molyneux - Curriculum & Standards

### **Church School Distinctiveness Action Plan**

- To further develop church/school links by raising the school's profile and its activities in St John's Church
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- To further develop relationships with communities beyond the UK and engage with global communities to enrich our children's lives.
- Create an outside Prayer/ Reflection area, to further develop the faithfulness of the Christian environment and enhance the children's outdoor learning

### **School Development Action Plan (SDP)**

We agree school development priorities that have been set from an analysis of data, which highlights areas to improve. The SDP is shared with us and progress towards key milestones is checked every term.

The 2018-19 targets for the school development plan were:

#### **Priority 1 – EYFS / KS1**

Further develop confidence in teaching phonics throughout the key stage.

#### **Priority 2 – English**

To increase the number of children exceeding age related expectations in English

#### **Priority 3 –Communication**

Improve children's communication and language skills throughout school

#### **Priority 4 – Teaching & Learning**

Revisit assessment and marking in core subjects to bring in line with Limitless Learning Vision

#### **Priority 5 – Head Start Resilience**

To further develop a culture of Limitless Learning and Growth Mindset with all staff, children and parents

Progress of the SDP is reported back to the Full Governing Body and sub committees termly where it is closely monitored.

### **Report of the Headteacher - Governors reviewed the content of the School Self Evaluation Document which fully detailed the following areas:**

- Key Judgements
- Context of the School
- Progress with key issues from the previous inspection (December 2015)
- 2016/17 School Improvement Priorities
- 2017/18 School Improvement Priorities
- Outcomes for Pupils
- The Quality of Teaching, Learning & Assessment
- Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare
- Effectiveness of the EYFS Provision
- Effectiveness of Leadership & Management
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC)

## **Policies**

Governors have reviewed and revised as necessary any relevant policies using the Governing Board Policy Review and Delegation Planner as recommended by the Local Authority. See below for the policies reviewed/revised in 2017-18:

- **Pay Policy**
- **SEN Policy**
- **Internal Control Framework**
- **Charging and Remissions Policy**
- **Statement of Internal Control**
- **Best Value Statement To follow**
- **Finance Procedures**
- **Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy**
- **Variance report**
- **Health and Safety Policy**
- **Staff Grievance Policy**

We have reviewed the following documents and reference guides again this year, which set out and aid how we operate:

- **Code of Conduct**
- **Procedures for the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**
- **Delegation Planner**
- **Policy Review Planner**
- **Committee Terms of Reference**
- **Committee Membership and Nominated Governor Roles**

## **Nominated Governor Roles/School Visits**

All governors have responsibilities delegated to them to act as a 'specialist' governor for certain functions (see list below). The Governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SDP and in co-ordination with their specific Nominated Governor Roles. These are a valuable opportunity for Governors to be able to work closely with staff members across all aspects of school. The Nominated Governors follow a yearly cycle and report back to the Full Governing Board Meetings with their roles and responsibilities being clearly defined.

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| • <b>Standards, Curriculum and Achievement Governor</b>           | <b>Gary Hope</b>                  |
| • <b>Church School Governor</b>                                   | <b>Hugh Gillick</b>               |
| • <b>Safeguarding, Child Protection &amp; Attendance Governor</b> | <b>Karen Blackburn</b>            |
| • <b>Children's Governor</b>                                      | <b>Sally Hume/Dave Blacker</b>    |
| • <b>Staff Links &amp; and Wellbeing Governor</b>                 | <b>Sally Hume/Parent Governor</b> |
| • <b>Community Cohesion Governor</b>                              | <b>Dave Blacker</b>               |
| • <b>SEN/Inclusion Governor</b>                                   | <b>Karen Blackburn</b>            |
| • <b>Pupil Premium Governor</b>                                   | <b>Vacancy</b>                    |
| • <b>Transition Governor</b>                                      | <b>Dave Blacker</b>               |

## **Governor Development Plan**

This enables the Governing Board to demonstrate its focus on the three core strategic functions as stated at the beginning of this statement, linking in with the School

Development Action Plan, training requirements and any requirements arising from the Ofsted inspection.

We are developing a more personalised skills audit for Governing Board members to complete. The evaluation of this means that we can look for specific skills when recruiting new Governors.

The school has had a safeguarding audit by the Local Authority and the Safeguarding Governor is to meet with Senior Management to review this.

We have completed a self-review exercise linked to the All Party Parliamentary Groups 'Twenty questions for School Governing Bodies to ask themselves'. This has formed our action/ development plan for this year. It is due to be reviewed in the Autumn term.

### **Governor Training**

During this academic year Governors have received training in a range of subjects including:

- **GB responsibilities in Improving Financial Health & Efficiency**
- **Modern Governor - Church Schools**
- **New Governor Induction**
- **NCTL Performance Related Pay Workshop**
- **NCTL Financial Efficiencies Workshop**

### **Contact us**

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from staff, parents, carers and other members of the community.

You can contact the Chair of Governors, via the school office and find information about the Governing Board on the school website at: [www.stjohnsblackpool.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsblackpool.co.uk)