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

Governing Board Annual Statement 2014-15

The following observation was recorded by OFSTED following their last visit to our school on 4th July 2012:

"The headteacher, together with leaders and managers at all levels, including the governing Board, have made significant positive changes to the school." (Ofsted 2012)

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"

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.

Instrument of Government

A change in Legislation required a reconstitution of the Governing Board. Training from the Local Authority was undertaken by the full Governing Board and under their guidance agreed the changes to meet the requirements. In practice this meant the reduction in Staff Governors from two to one and two more Foundation Governors (a total of 7) than all other types of Governors (a total of 5).

The draft Instrument of Government was approved by the Full Governing Board for consideration by Blackburn Diocese Board of Education (as the Approving Body) as St John's Church of England Primary school is a Diocese of Blackburn Voluntary-aided school.

This was approved in May 2015 and signed off by the Chair of Governors and the Diocesan Director of Education. It came into effect on 1st September 2015.

Appointment of Governors

Mr John Tyler was reappointed as a Foundation Governor by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St John the Evangelist's Church, Blackpool for a four year period up to to 31st August 2018.

On the recommendation of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St John The Evangelist's Church, Blackpool Mr Hugh Gillick was reappointed as a Foundation Governor by the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education for. a four year period up to 31st August 2018.

<u>Curriculum & Standards Committee</u> – 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 are aware of our duties in respect of radicalisation and extremism. Staff have had training and we have had information cascaded about our duties and any actions we should take.

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

<u>Resources Committee</u> – to cover the business side of the school, including staffing, finance and premises management.

The Governing Board has been trained in School Finance Management.

The 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.

<u>Self-Evaluation and Effectiveness Sub Committee</u> - to monitor the progress of the school improvement plan

Data is made available to Governors through termly meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions with the headteacher. This enables Governors to benchmark their data against targets, previous years and nationally to ensure the schools standards and expectations are high and are able to be closely scrutinised.

Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium.

Governors agreed this year to appoint a Pupil Premium Governor who has met with the headteacher and Senior Management further analyze pupil performance across the school.

We saw external verification of how the school is doing. Raise on line/ Inspection/Data Dashboard show us how we compare nationally to other schools. We also received reports from our External School Adviser bought in from Lancashire, and the. Challenge Partners Quality Review Report.

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 2014-15 targets for the school development plan were:

- Improve Standards in Writing across Key Stage 2
- Improve standards of attainment in Reading and Writing in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Sage 1
- Improve standards of teaching throughout school

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 2014-15:-

- Behaviour Statement
- Governors'' Allowance Policy
- Staff Behavior Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
- Appraisal Policy
- Charging and Remissions Policy

Governor visits

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.

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 have recently completed a skills audit of the Governing Board. 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 will form our action/ development plan for next year and will be reviewed in line with whole school reviewing process in the summer term.

Governor Training

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

FFT (Fisher Family Trust) Aspire
Reconstitution Training
Agendas Briefing
Blackpool Challenge
HMI Common Inspection Framework
Safer Recruitment
HMI Pupil Premium
New Governor Welcome/Induction
Clerk's Conference

Contact us

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from 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