

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

## Governance Arrangements

### **Instrument of Governance**

St John's Church of England Primary School is a Diocese of Blackburn Voluntary-aided school and the Instrument of Governance came into effect on 1st September 2015

### **Governance Arrangements**

St John's has 12 school Governors made up of parents, Governors appointed by Blackburn Diocese or Parochial Church Council (Foundation Governors), staff from school, and representatives from the local authority (LA).

### **How are Governors chosen?**

We have two Parent Governors, who must have a child currently at St John's, and are elected by parents. One Staff Governor, who must be actively employed by the school and is elected by St John's staff. Blackpool Council put forward the Local Authority Governor, while Foundation Governors are appointed by the church. All Governors are elected/appointed to serve for a period of four years. At the end of their four year term Governors can apply to be re-appointed or in the case of parent or staff Governors, providing they still meet the criteria, they can choose to stand for re-election.

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, St John's comes under the control of the Diocese of Blackburn. From the 1st September 2015, the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) is the Appointing Body for all Foundation Governors. The PCC nominates three people and the Incumbent (the Principle Officiating Minister i.e. the Vicar of St John's Church) also nominates three people to the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) to be appointed as Foundation Governors. The Incumbent is appointed by the DBE as an ex-Officio Foundation Governor. The seven Foundation Governors form the majority of the Governing Body.

### **What do Governors do?**

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.**

The over-riding role of the Governing Body is to ensure that the needs of the pupils, both in terms of their education and their over-all well being, are being consistently met at St Johns. This is achieved by providing oversight to ensure that school is being run well from top to bottom and that the teaching is always of a high standard.

Governors are responsible for major decisions about the school and its future. For instance they set the annual budget and approve targets and statutory policies for the school. They also appoint the headteacher and senior staff.

While the headteacher is the professional tasked with the day-to-day running of the school the Governors look at the bigger picture. Always seeking to support the school and staff, the Governors should aim to be a “critical friend” in that they should never be afraid to challenge or question the performance of the headteacher and the school.

### **What does it take to be a Governor?**

Governors need the skills required to contribute to effective governance and success of the school. They need enthusiasm, commitment, and an interest in committing to the school. Training is provided for new Governors. School Governors are all volunteers and do not receive any financial reward.

Governors are asked to attend at least three full Governing Body meetings a year and all Governors also sit on at least one sub committee to look at specific areas of school life in accordance with their terms of reference.

They also visit the school linked into their specific Nominated Governor Roles.

These committees meet once a term:-

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

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

**Self-Evaluation and Effectiveness Sub Committee** - to monitor the progress of the school development action plan

### **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 the Governing Board and progress towards key Milestones is checked every term.

### **Policies**

Governors review all relevant policies using the Governing Body Policy Review and Delegation Planner as recommended by the Local Authority.

### **Governor Development Plan**

This enables the governing body to demonstrate its focus on its three core strategic functions as stated at the beginning of this statement, linking in with the school development plan, training requirements and any requirements arising from the Ofsted inspection.

### **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](http://www.stjohnsblackpool.co.uk)