BISHOP RAWSTORNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY ANNUAL GOVERNORS' REPORT 2025/2026

Welcome to the Annual Governors' Report for Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy. This academic year has been a period of celebration, rigorous self-reflection and significant validation from external inspectors. The excellent GCSE results achieved by the Class of 2026, alongside the positive findings from both SIAMS and Ofsted, reflect the resilience of our students and the unstinting commitment of our teaching and support staff. We extend our sincere gratitude to our parents and carers, whose vital partnership helps our pupils to flourish.

As a Governing Board, our primary role is to provide strategic leadership, robust financial accountability and constructive challenge to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). This year, our focus has been on maintaining high standards of education, managing structural leadership changes and further strengthening our identity as a Church school. The Board's strategic review identified successful outcomes in Ofsted and SIAMS as key priorities, alongside continuing to strengthen governance procedures, improve relationships with key stakeholders and ensure the effectiveness of the new SLT structure.

The November 2025 SIAMS inspection and January 2026 Ofsted inspection highlighted the school's strengths in both educational provision and, in relation to the SIAMS inspection, its Christian ethos.

The SIAMS report confirmed that the Academy strongly lives up to its foundation as a Church school, enabling both pupils and adults to flourish. Inspectors praised the highly engaging and specialised RE curriculum, as well as a vibrant culture of collective worship which sits at the heart of daily school life.

In the Ofsted inspection, the school secured a "Strong standard" in three core areas, with inspectors noting that GCSE results remain consistently well above national averages. The school achieved an "Expected standard" in the remaining three areas, with particular praise for student attendance, which remains significantly higher than the national average.

During the year, governors have provided ongoing support and challenge to the new SLT, helping to ensure that our students achieve their full potential. We have used a range of progress reports, data analysis and meetings with staff to scrutinise performance and have regularly monitored progress against the objectives of our School Improvement Plan.

We have continued to develop our relationships with stakeholders through a range of forums and events designed to inform and engage parents. We are also delighted to welcome Reverend Marshall, Rector of the United Parish of Croston, Bretherton and Mawdesley with Bispham, to the Board of Trustees. We look forward to working with her to further strengthen the Christian distinctiveness of our school.

This past year, we bid farewell to two of our long-serving colleagues, Mrs Duckworth and Mr Williams, and we wish them every success in retirement and their future endeavours. Once again, Bishop Rawstorne was delighted with the GCSE results achieved by our students following their examinations in Summer 2026. This cohort missed their KS2 SATs due to pandemic disruption, so there is no official Progress 8 or value-added data. Nevertheless, over three-quarters achieved five or more standard passes at GCSE, with 62% achieving five or more strong passes. The school recorded its best EBacc performance in five years, with 52% of students achieving a standard pass. The Modern Foreign Languages department also achieved a five-year high, with 90.4% of entered students gaining a standard pass and 76.8% achieving a strong pass.

Results across the whole curriculum once again reflect our commitment to providing a broad and balanced curriculum which supports and challenges our students to achieve their best. They also demonstrate the effectiveness of the new Senior Leadership Team. We are delighted to celebrate the success of our former students, together with their friends and families, at our annual awards evening later in the year.

The Board's vision for Bishop Rawstorne is that it should continue to build on these successes and provide an outstanding academic education within a Christian community that enables students and staff to flourish and develop. Our priorities for 2026/2027 will continue to focus on this vision and on achieving the best possible outcomes for the students in our care.

Mr S Gregson
Chair of Governors & Trust Board

October 2026