

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of Brindle St. James' Church of England School School Year 2020-21

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:

Setting Strategic Direction

- Ensuring clarity of vision and ethos
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Making sure statutory duties are met.

Creating Robust Accountability

- Accountability for teaching, achievement, behaviour and safety
- Strengthening and supporting school leadership
- Performance managing the Headteacher
- Contributing to school self-evaluation.

Ensuring Financial Probity

- 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 for 2020/21 was made up as follows:

- Parent Governors: Mr A Lund, Mrs S Osiowy-West
- Acting Headteacher/Headteacher: Mrs T Austin
- Staff Governor: Vacant/ Mrs A Latimer
- Local Authority Governor: Mrs S Bryson
- Foundation: Mrs J Barnsley, Mr R Ironfield, Mrs S Lewis, Mrs M Mercer, Mrs T Taylor, Rev D Ward, Dr K A Whyte

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. Brindle St. James' Church of England School has the following committees that meet termly:

Resources (finance, staffing, premises, health & safety)]

Curriculum (Standards, welfare of children)

Due to Covid-19 restrictions all meetings in 2020/21 were conducted via Zoom.

Governors also have link roles in relation to safeguarding and Prevent, maths, English, RE, SEN, science and PE and normally visit school regularly to meet pupils and staff, in addition to monitoring specific aspects of the school. In 2020/21 visits to school were suspended due to Covid-19.

There are also committees that meet, if required, to consider pupil discipline, staffing appeals and complaints. These groups were not required to meet in 2020/21.

A list of Governors, their terms of office and positions of responsibility is published on the school website.

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 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.

Assessment and Impact of the Governing Board during 2020-21 School Year

Resources Committee

Financial Management

- *budget-setting and monitoring including use of specific grants such as Pupil Premium, Sports Premium and Catch Up Funding grants*
- *detailed analysis of budget and spending patterns in conjunction with school administrator to promote balanced budget*
- *detailed consideration of possible ways of increasing income and/or decreasing expenditure to promote balanced budget*
- *detailed consideration and amendment of staffing structure with reference to value for money, needs of school, budgetary constraints and preferred working patterns*
- *Meeting the Schools' Financial Value Standard – annual review although all aspects already met – additional requirements this year dealt with*
- *Introduction of Parent Pay to support electronic payments by parents*

Staff recruitment, performance and pay reviews

- *recruitment of senior teacher to TLR point to support Headteacher in running school*
- *recruitment of part-time teacher to complement part-time class 2 teacher*
- *recruitment of TA to support classes throughout the school*

- *revision of working hours of TAs in light of working preferences and needs of school*
- *pay review of all eligible staff*

Buildings and Health and Safety

- *Building developments/improvements – replacement of external doors to enhance security and energy efficiency*
- *In conjunction with a parent governor and his place of work, enhancement of loft storage area and building of playground shelter*
- *Completion of steps to field*
- *Headteacher supported by governor knowledge with a planning application to improve a perimeter wall*

Curriculum and Standards Committee

- *Detailed monitoring of Covid-19 plans to ensure compliance with changing central and local government requirements and good practice*
- *Regular reporting on in-school and remote teaching arrangements and on wellbeing of staff and pupils*
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- *Monitoring of pupil progress and attendance on basis of available information in absence of statutory data*
- *Regular liaison with Headteacher on rapidly changing situation and ways of amending normal practice to meet specific circumstances during pandemic*
- *Monitoring of Special Educational Needs provision, of child protection and pupil welfare and of pupil behaviour and safety*
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- *Close and regular remote contact between Chair and Headteacher to formulate ways of responding appropriately and quickly to changing circumstances*
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- *Review of policies in accordance with schedule*
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Full Governing Board

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- *Engagement with business of and approval of recommendations of above committees*
- *School Improvement Plan – detailed consideration at each meeting with particular reference to identified priorities*
- *School Self-Evaluation – as above*
- *Governing Board development plan*

- *Governor training – some governor training undertaken but arrangement of bespoke events postponed due to absence of Head and Covid-19*
- *Ensuring healthy and safe learning environment*
- *Ensuring compliance with policies, procedures and requirements*
- *Impact review – items identified at each meeting of committees and Board*
- *Enhancement of school website to make it more attractive and easier to use*
- *Responsibility for breakfast and after school clubs transferred*

Future Plans for Continuous Improvement

Engage fully with DfE, LCC and Diocesan arrangements for transition from Covid-19 arrangements to ensure optimum delivery of education to all pupils.

Scrutinise data and information with particular care to assess overall success of provision during transition from Covid-19 arrangements to steady state.

Continue to build short-term and long-term budgetary plans that will promote continued high standards within balanced budget.

In conjunction with LA and Diocese continue to support Headteacher in developing into role.

Engage in bespoke training events for Board.

Agreed by the Governing Board on:

Signed by the Chair: