

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of Brindle St. James' Church of England School School Year 2021-22

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 2021/22 was made up as follows:

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

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)

During the year there was a transition from meetings held remotely via Zoom to in-person meetings held in school. Members recognised that this gave a better quality of engagement than the remote meetings, although Zoom had been a valuable way of maintaining governance at a time when in-person meetings were impossible. Clerking continued to be 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. Following the suspension of meetings in 2019/20 and the use of remote teaching for some pupils, governors gradually returned to visiting school and to a more normal pattern of attendance. This included committee meetings, visits to meet staff, attendance at school events and staff recruitment.

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 have the opportunity to discuss matters so that informed decisions can be made as appropriate on all aspects of the Board's responsibilities.

The attendance record for all governors is published on the school website.

Assessment and Impact of the Governing Board during 2021-22 School Year

Resources Committee

Financial Management

- *budget-setting and monitoring including use of specific grants such as Pupil Premium, Sports Premium, National Tutoring Funding and Catch Up Funding grants*
- *detailed analysis of budget and spending patterns in conjunction with LCC support to promote balanced budget*
- *detailed consideration of possible ways of increasing income and/or decreasing expenditure to promote balanced budget including taking full responsibility for the before and after school clubs and considering the establishment of a nursery*
- *detailed consideration of staffing structure with reference to value for money, needs of school, budgetary constraints, preferred working patterns and known future inflationary pressures such as incremental progression.*

- *Meeting the Schools' Financial Value Standard – annual review although several years' experience of meeting all aspects*

Staff recruitment, performance and pay reviews

- *recruitment of maternity cover and part-time teacher to complement class 3 teacher*
- *recruitment of site supervisor and after school club manager*
- *pay review of all eligible staff*
- *regular reports on staffing matters*

Buildings and Health and Safety

- *Building developments/improvements – In conjunction with a parent governor and his place of work building of playground shelter and, with expertise of parent, erection of structure on site*
- *Bidding for project to raise stone wall around infant area of playground to enhance security and to maintain high aesthetic standards*
- *Further work to enhance reception area and school hall to strengthen church school messaging*

Curriculum and Standards Committee

- *Detailed monitoring of plans to return to full in-person teaching arrangements in accordance with central and local government requirements and good practice*
- *Detailed monitoring of information on pupil and staff wellbeing and academic performance during transition to 'normal' working*
- *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 changing circumstances*
- *Monitoring of Special Educational Needs provision, child protection and pupil welfare and of pupil behaviour and safety*
- *Close and regular contact between Board Chair and Headteacher to meet needs of school despite changing circumstances*
- *Board and committee meetings held in different parts of school to foster knowledge of school, scrutiny of pupils' work and to gain better understanding of curriculum*
- *Review of policies in accordance with schedule*

Full Governing Board

- *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 and challenges of rapidly changing external environment*
- *School Self-Evaluation – as above*
- *Governing Board development plan*

- *Governor training – participation in some general events and specific training for Board members on SIAMS and Ofsted preparation*
- *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 and monitoring of site*
- *Full responsibility for breakfast and after school clubs transferred*

Future Plans for Continuous Improvement

Engage fully with DfE, LCC and Diocesan arrangements to ensure optimum delivery of education to all pupils.

Scrutinise data and information with particular care to assess overall success of provision following disruption due to pandemic.

Continue to build short-term and long-term budgetary plans that will promote continued high standards within balanced budget during a period that will be very challenging financially.

In conjunction with LA and Diocese continue to support Headteacher in developing quality of education.

Engage in further bespoke training events for Board and participate in general programme. Support induction of new governors.

Agreed by the Governing Board on:

Signed by the Chair: