



The Governance Statement for St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance arrangements	Our GB is made up of 12 governors. The headteacher, a staff governor, 2 foundation governors, an LA governor, 2 parent governors and 5 co-opted governors. All governors serve a four-year term with the exception of the headteacher who is automatically a member of the board. Parent governors are elected by the parents of the school and staff governors are elected by the staff of the school. Co-opted governors are appointed by the GB and are people who, in their opinion, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. Further details about our governors are available on the school's website. We currently have a vacancy for a foundation governor and two co-opted governors. The GB meets 3 times a year and each committee 3 times a year. We have 3 committees which have responsibility for different areas. Resources – This committee looks at staffing including performance management, finance, property management, health and safety, risk management and GDPR. Teaching and learning – This committee is responsible for the curriculum, target setting, assessment and outcomes, quality of teaching and School Improvement Planning. Pupil Support – This committee reviews behaviour policies, safeguarding, attendance, spiritual moral social and cultural development, children, parent and staff voice, equality and diversity, extra-curricular activities and school partnerships.
Attendance record of governors	Governors have good attendance at meetings and we have not had to cancel any meetings because it was not quorate (the minimum number of governors needed to ensure legal decisions can be made). Information about governors' attendance at meetings is published on the school's website.
The work that our GB has done	All statutory training for governors has been undertaken and all committees have fulfilled their obligations to receive and



including committees	discuss reports on each agenda item. School policies are also reviewed and agreed on a scheduled basis. Additionally, governors with specific responsibilities (link roles) meet the appropriate staff members and make school visits regularly throughout the year, including taking views from pupils. The role of the Governing Board is often defined as that of a 'critical friend', both challenging and supporting the school in meeting agreed priorities and responding to changing circumstances. We also have a specific duty to oversee financial management and ensure value for money including maintaining a balanced budget. In particular, this past year, we received and discussed detailed reports and proposals on the following new and ongoing issues. Firstly, in response to a continuing high number of pupils with additional and complex needs across school, the GB approved the funding of school led provision which includes a full time teacher. The school has also increased its capacity by having three SENDCOs (one currently on maternity and due to return summer 26). We also have a higher number of support staff in some year groups. Building maintenance – Leeds City Council completed phase three of the roof replacement in summer 25 and phase three is planned for summer 25. The school still allocates a substantial amount of money to the maintenance of the building which is a considerable ongoing task. The school budget is now in deficit and has submitted a deficit action plan to the LA. The governors continue to monitor this closely to ensure the school does all it can to reduce the projected deficit. This includes an annual review of the staffing structure as the school continues to reduce in pupil numbers as it moves to a two-from entry by 2028. The school will be starting a Managed Staff Reduction (MSR) in January 2026 for teaching staff. The library and reading bus form part of the plan to promote reading which remains a priority for school. The school have joined a DFE programme to support and develop phonics teaching and raise standards, this is with the Jerry Clay English Hub. Attendance is a major priority for school and continues to be a focus of discussions with Governors as we believe: <i>"Excellent attendance is vital for children to flourish and achieve"</i> The school's overall attendance data 24-25 continues to be in line with national data and is better than that of similar schools which is a fantastic achievement. However to maintain this very high level and to improve attendance of identified groups the school continues to commit a large amount of time and resources.
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	Safeguarding underpins all aspects of school and GB decision making and we are very pleased with the considerable amount of work the school does to keep children safe and to support families. This includes the school having a full-time dedicated DSL. The Safeguarding Audit in October 2025 reflects this commitment and hard work.
Future plans for the governors	We will work together to ensure the school makes progress with its priorities: 1. English - focus on oracy/speaking and listening and reading focusing on phonics in EYFS and KS1. 2. Curriculum – looking at adaptive, quality first teaching to ensure the needs of all children are met. Including learning behavior. 3. Early Years – looking at preparedness to learn and executive functioning skills 5. Wellbeing–children and staff The school had an OFSTED inspection in December 2024 and were judged as good in all areas. The report was very positive and identified many areas where the school does well. We are now working on the areas identified that need improvement included in the priorities above.
How you can contact the governing body	We are always happy to hear from you and welcome your suggestions, feedback and ideas. Please contact the Chair of Governors via the school office, the head teacher or you can email chairofgovernors@stbartsleeds.org.uk