



## 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, one parent governor and two co-opted governors. We started the election process for a parent governor in October 23 and this should be completed by the end of November.

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.



<p>The work that our GB has done including committees</p>	<p>All statutory training for governors is being undertaken and all committees have fulfilled their obligations to receive and discuss reports on each agenda item. School policies are also reviewed and agreed on a scheduled basis. Additionally, governors with specific responsibilities meet the appropriate staff members and make school visits regularly throughout the year, including taking views from pupils on mostly curriculum areas.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Firstly, in response to a sharp rise in the number of pupils with additional and complex needs, the GB approved an increase in the funding of school led provision including the appointment of two additional SENCOs.</p> <p>Building maintenance is essential but costly and disruptive and in order to ensure a schedule which met the school's needs we approved funding contributions to the replacement of the boilers and roof. The school budget is now balanced after several years in surplus.</p> <p>Plans for the new library and reading bus were discussed and spending approved as part of the reading priority for school and to encourage independent reading.</p> <p>Attendance has been a major cause for concern especially following COVID, and continues to be a focus of discussions with Governors. Additional resources were allocated to this area and school's data is now in line with national benchmarks.</p> <p>Safeguarding is an issue that underpins all aspects of school and GB decision making and we are very pleased with the results of the recent safeguarding audit.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>We will work together to ensure the school makes progress with its priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. English - focus on oracy/speaking and listening</li><li>2. Curriculum</li><li>3. Vulnerable learners - SEND – ensuring the needs of the children are met and lessons support their learning and progress and this is shared with parents. Supporting the needs of our EAL children and families</li><li>4. Early Years</li></ol>



	<p>5. Wellbeing—children and staff</p> <p>Additionally, we will be working to progress the actions from a recent parent survey to increase parental engagement.</p> <p>We are also aware that OFSTED and SIAMS inspections are due and we are preparing Governors to support school through these.</p>
How you can contact the governing body	<p>We are always happy to hear from you and welcome your suggestions, feedback and ideas.</p> <p>Please contact the Chair of Governors via the school office, the head teacher or you can email <a href="mailto:chairofgovernors@stbartsleeds.org.uk">chairofgovernors@stbartsleeds.org.uk</a></p>