



## 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We currently have a vacancy for a foundation governor and two parent governors. We started the election process for parent governors in September 24 and this should be completed by the end of October.</p> <p>The GB meets 3 times a year and each committee 3 times a year. We have 3 committees which have responsibility for different areas.</p> <p><b>Resources</b> – This committee looks at staffing including performance management, finance, property management, health and safety, risk management and GDPR.</p> <p><b>Teaching and learning</b> – This committee is responsible for the curriculum, target setting, assessment and outcomes, quality of teaching and School Improvement Planning.</p> <p><b>Pupil Support</b> – 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.</p>
Attendance record of governors	<p>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

All statutory training for governors has been 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 (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 sharp rise in the 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.

Building maintenance – Leeds City Council completed phase two of the roof replacement in summer 24 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 balanced after several years in surplus. The governors continue to monitor this closely to ensure the school does all it can to prevent the future 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 new library and reading bus are now complete and form part of the plan to promote reading which remains a priority for school. A break in and vandalism over the summer has resulted in the bus closing until the repairs can be made.

Attendance is a major priority for school and continues to be a focus of discussions with Governors as we believe:

***“Excellent attendance is vital for children to flourish and achieve”***

The school's overall attendance data 23-24 is now in line with national 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.

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.



<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><li>5. Wellbeing–children and staff</li></ol> <p>Additionally, we will be monitoring the work school does resulting from the annual parent survey</p> <p>We are also aware that an OFSTED inspection due during 24-25 and we are preparing Governors to support school through this.</p>
<p>How you can contact the governing body</p>	<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>