

## St John's Church of England School, Church Street, Blackpool

### Governing Board Annual Statement 2021-22

The following observation was recorded by OFSTED following their last visit to our school on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020:

- “Blackpool St John’s is a warm and welcoming school. The pupils said that they are happy and love school. They attend regularly. They said that they feel safe and can talk to staff if they have a worry and staff look after them properly. Staff teach pupils how to stay safe online and when outdoors.”
- “Pupils achieve well because leaders and staff have high expectations.”
- “The headteacher, supported by a new leadership team and capable governing body, leads Blackpool St John’s very effectively. Leaders know the pupils well. Leaders have an accurate view of what the school does well and what it needs to do to improve further. Leaders’ plans for improvement are clear and precise.”
- “Leaders and staff focus clearly on developing pupils’ personal development, including their well-being and resilience.”
- “All staff enjoy working at Blackpool St. John’s. They value the help and guidance that the headteacher and governors give them.”
- “The arrangements for safeguarding are effective”

The following observation was recorded in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report 9th February 2017:-

- "The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Blackpool St. John’s as a Church of England school are **outstanding.**"
- "The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is **outstanding** at meeting the needs of all learners."
- "The impact of collective worship on the school community is **outstanding.**"
- "The effectiveness of religious education is **outstanding.**"
- "The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is **outstanding.**"
- "The Christian vision of the headteacher, senior leadership team and the governors drives the school forward."

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

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

This Annual Statement is prepared in accordance with current Department of Education guidance which states:

“It is good practice for the Governing Board to publish an annual governance statement to explain how it has fulfilled its responsibilities”

### **Publication of Governance Arrangements**

In the interests of transparency, a school/academy must publish on its website up to-date details of its governance arrangements in a readily accessible format. This statement therefore is to explain how the Governing Board has fulfilled its responsibilities as defined by Government supported by the Local Authority and Blackburn Diocese.

### **Publishing Arrangements**

Governors received the report to assure the Board that the school website is compliant with statutory requirements of information to be published on the website, including publication of governance arrangements. Arrangements were made to address any areas of non-compliance.

### **Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**

Karen Blackburn was appointed as Chair for the coming two academic years. Gary Hope did not wish to continue the role of Vice Chair and Jo Hirst was appointed Vice Chair for the coming two academic years.

### **Membership**

- Louisa Dawson appointed as Foundation Governor from 24 August 2021
- Gary Hope Term of Office as Foundation Governor ended on 18 March 2022 and he was subsequently reappointed to this post by Blackburn Diocese on 19 March 2022
- Rev Andy Dykes appointed as Ex-officio Governor from 12 October 2021
- Colin Malone's Term of Office as Foundation Governor ended on 31 August 2022. A replacement to be sought.
- Hayley Aris' Term of Office as Parent Governor ended 18 February 2022 with an election process put in place to elect a replacement. She was appointed as Associate Member from 19 February 2022. Following an unsuccessful Parent Governor election process Hayley Aris was elected as Parent Governor following the protocol outlined by Governor Services.

### **Register of Business/Pecuniary Interests**

Governors completed the annual review of their business interests.

The Governing Board normally holds six full Governing Board meetings a year. The impact of the Governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective and continuous. Governor expertise – the Governors bring a wide variety of expertise to the school and this helps to ensure the school is moving forward.

### **Presentations by strategic staff members to the Governing Board**

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The EEF Guide to Pupil Premium

Presentation on work taking place in the school around SEND

Reading for Pleasure

### **School Development Action Plan (SDP)**

We agreed the school development priorities that have been set from an analysis of data which highlights areas to improve. The SDP is shared with us and progress towards key milestones is checked every term. The 2021-22 targets for the school development plan were:

Priority 1 – Reading: raise the bar and expanding minds

Priority 2 – Embed the recent changes to the curriculum and teaching in the Early Years and Year 1 - positive start, positive outcomes.

Priority 3-Embed the school’s irresistible curriculum: deliver a challenging and engaging curriculum

Priority 4- Embed the culture and ethos of the school so that the vision for the school is clearly communicated and shaped by the school and wider community

Progress of the SDP is reported back to the Full Governing Body where it is closely monitored.

### **Budget Monitoring**

Reports received from the School Business Manager, including end of year statement and Variance Report. The Governing Board approved the budget for 2022-23.

### **Safeguarding Annual Report**

Governors received the annual report on safeguarding, to assure the Board that robust arrangements are in place and for them to support consideration of whether any additional training/amendment to policies and procedures is required.

### **Get Information About Schools (GIAS)**

Governors noted that the requirement for GIAS (formerly EduBase) is kept up to date.

### **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2021**

Governors confirmed that they had read this document and understood the contents.

### **GDPR**

Governors received a summary report from the school Business Manager, assuring the Board that robust arrangements were in place.

### **Policies**

Governors have reviewed and revised as necessary any relevant policies using the Governing Board Policy Review and Delegation Planner as recommended by the Local Authority. See below for the policies reviewed/revised in 2021-22:

● <b>Accessibility Plan</b>
● <b>Appraisal (Teachers) LA Model</b>
● <b>Capability of Staff LA Model</b>
● <b>Charging &amp; Remissions Policy</b>
● <b>Governor Allowance Policy</b>
● <b>Grievance Policy LA Model</b>
● <b>Health &amp; Safety Policy</b>
● <b>Internal Control Framework (Financial)</b>
● <b>Pay Policy</b>
● <b>Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy and Procedures</b>
● <b>School’s Financial Value Standard (SFVS)</b>
● <b>School Uniform Policy</b>
● <b>SEND Policy</b>

We have reviewed the following documents and reference guides again this year which set out and aid how we operate:

- **Instrument of Government** - Outlines the constitution of the Governing Board, as agreed by the Diocese and Local Authority.
- **Code of Conduct** - this sets out the expectations on and commitment required from Governors and Trustees in order for the Governing Board to properly carry out its work within the school and the community.
- **Procedures for the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**
- **Delegation Planner/Scheme of Delegation** - this outlines the key roles and functions of the Governing Board, and determines where these have been delegated to a Local Governing Board/committee or individual in line with Governance regulations.
- **Policy Review Planner** - this details the statutory policies requiring consideration by the Governing Board, and where these have been delegated to a committee or individual in line with Governance regulations.
- **Committee Terms of Reference** - this outlines the procedures and functions delegated to Committees established by the Governing Board.
- **Committee Membership and Nominated Governor Roles** - this confirms the appointment of nominated Governor Roles and Membership on each established Committee of the Governing Board.

#### **Linked Governor Roles/School Visits**

All governors have responsibilities delegated to them to act as a 'specialist' governor for certain functions. The Governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SDP and in coordination with their specific Linked Governor Roles. These are a valuable opportunity for Governors to be able to work closely with staff members across all aspects of school. The Linked Governors follow a yearly cycle and report back to the Full Governing Board Meetings with their roles and responsibilities being clearly defined. This is under review currently so that the Link Governor Roles and School Visits link in to the School Development Plan and School Vision. Please see the school website for more information on our Governor roles.

#### **Governor Development Plan**

This enables the Governing Board to demonstrate its focus on the three core strategic functions as stated at the beginning of this statement, linking in with the School Development Action Plan, training requirements and any requirements arising from the Ofsted inspection.

We are developing a more personalised skills audit for Governing Board members to complete. The evaluation of this means that we can look for specific skills when recruiting new Governors.

### **Governor Training**

During this academic year Governors have received training in a range of subjects including:

- **Governor Network Event – Ofsted from a Governor’s perspective**
- **Safeguarding**
- **Governor Roles and Responsibilities around finance**

### **Contact us**

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from staff, parents, carers and other members of the community.

You can contact the Chair of Governors, via the school office and find information about the Governing Board on the school website at: [www.stjohnsblackpool.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsblackpool.co.uk)