

**Annual Governance Statement for the Local Governing Committee of
St Luke and St Philip's Primary School; A Church of England Academy**
(We are part of the Cidari Multi Academy Trust)

School Year 2020-2021

VISION STATEMENT:

Our school provides grounding in the Christian Faith for all its children with emphasis on collective worship as part of its daily life. Christian values are built into the ethos and teaching of our school with the support of all Governors and staff for its Christian foundation. We also seek to encourage an understanding and respect for other world faiths.

We value and will continue to strengthen links between school, home and parish. Through these aims the school hopes to encourage all children to develop their maximum potential.

Our vision statement is: 'The family of St Luke and St Philip's will ensure excellence is encouraged, minds are opened, diversity is embraced, respect is expected and talents are nurtured under the umbrella of God's love.'

MISSION STATEMENT:

St Luke & St Philip's is an open friendly learning community founded on Christian Values, whilst always welcoming and including other faiths and cultures. In our school everybody is valued and has a voice. In partnership with the church and all stakeholders we aim to equip our children to live safe, healthy fulfilling lives, enabling them to shine today and in the future.

Role of the Local Governing Committee

Following the creation of the Cidari Multi-Academy Trust, school governance within the Trust has changed in a number of ways to comply with the requirements of the MAT. The key change is that we are known as the Local Governing Body (LGC), and report into the Trust governance structure. This gives Heads and Trustees of the MAT the opportunity to review feedback and monitoring information.

The LGC body meets at least twice each term to consider various aspects of the school in detail. In previous years, we have operated sub-committees to carry out certain monitoring activities for reporting back into the main governing body, but during the last academic year, it has been more productive to operate only the LGC, which considers all matters within the remit of school governance, with individual governors covering specific areas (e.g. Safeguarding) completing their monitoring as appropriate, and reporting back into LGC periodically. Governors are expected to attend all LGC meetings across the academic year, in addition to carrying out any monitoring required by their specific portfolio responsibilities.

The Clerk to the LGC ensures that all meetings are accurately recorded and governors are updated on the latest policies relating to their responsibilities. LGC delegates the day-to-day running of the school to the Headteacher and Leadership Team.

The role of the Local Governing Committee is set out in education law, and the Trust scheme of delegation, 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 Local Governing Committee Constitution: There are up to 10 positions (4 minimum), and consist of Foundation Governors - a maximum of 6 posts, 2 Parent 1 Staff, (4 year term) and the Headteacher.

The governing committee is made up as follows:

- **Parent Governors: Mrs L Rashid, Miss H Suleman**
- **Headteacher: Miss S O'Connell**
- **Staff Governor: Miss T Adam (Resigned July 2021)**
- **Foundation: Mr F Kershaw (Chair) Mr D Borland OBE (Vice Chair) Miss M Beck, Mrs H Bird, Mrs P Mallaby (Resigned July 2021)**

The Local Governing Committee meets twice per term to consider various aspects of the school in detail.

Governors also have links to Child Protection & Looked after Children, Internet Safety, Pupil Premium, Reading, SEND, English, Maths, RE, Science Wellbeing, and Creative Curriculum, and visit school regularly to meet pupils and staff, in addition to monitoring specific aspects of the curriculum or areas such as SEN and safeguarding.

There are also committees that meet, if required, to consider admission, appraisal & pay, complaint appeals, pupil discipline and appeals, staffing discipline, complaints and appeals.

Governor terms of office can be found [here](#).

Governors' Attendance Record

Local Governing Committees make decisions collectively, though they may choose to delegate responsibility to committees, or individuals (including the Headteacher). Attending Local Governing Committee meetings is an essential part of a governor's role and the attendance record for the majority of governors of our school is **Very Good**. This ensures that all governors receive the necessary information all at the same time and therefore important and informed decisions can be made as and when necessary on all aspects of the school, staff and pupils.

Assessment and Impact of the Local Governing Committee 2020-2021 School Year

Following the turbulent end to the school year in 2019-2020, it was so good to see the school welcome back all pupils in person in September 2020. The school day looked and felt different, the children and staff settled in well to their new classes and the new way of school life. The governors were impressed and proud of how the staff pulled together to ensure that the changes which were needed were quickly implemented and as we ended the year, although it is fair to say there is still work to do bring children back to the where they need to be, the foundations which have been laid by the team will pay dividends as we head into the new school year in 2021-2022.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Local Governing Committee continued to meet by the use of the virtual platform Zoom. We were able to support the school's leadership team and scrutinise the plans and actions to satisfy ourselves that appropriate education provision arrangements were in place for children at home as well as and on-site. To ensure that Children and Staff remained safe the Committee were provided with numerous revised risk assessments prepared by the Trust in collaboration with the Headteacher.

The health, safety and wellbeing of staff and pupils, including the safeguarding of vulnerable pupils was of the highest priority as the school prepared to open to a wider number of pupils and for the new academic year in September. Following the advice of the Trust, vital decisions were made, including the agreement of investment in additional hygiene equipment and increased cleaning provision to provide as safe as possible environment for pupils and staff on their return to school. The governors also provided support to the Headteacher to assist in removing barriers to online home learning should this become necessary in any future school closures, whether full or partial.

Finance Management:

- **Finance:** Due to the change in which the way the Local Governing Committee needed to operate, a thorough review of the schools financial position was undertaken to ensure the financial stability of the school in the light of Covid-19, and that expenditure achieved value for money.
- **Performance and pay reviews:** In the autumn term the CEO of the Trust undertook the headteacher's performance review and the Headteacher together with the CEO of the Trust agreed pay progression for teaching staff, including senior leaders, subject to good performance.
- **Building developments/improvements and Health & Safety:**
 - Health and Safety walk-arounds by the Health & Safety Governor and Headteacher
 - Ensured adherence to the school's risk assessments for partial and full openings

Achievement and Performance: Accountability for teaching, achievement, behaviour and safety

- Ensuring our church school distinctiveness through meetings between our Church School Distinctiveness Governor and RE subject leader
- Analyse data – attainment and pupil progress – detailed consideration at every meeting and exploration of reasons for any patterns
- Analyse subject leader and school development plans
- Monitor the school curriculum and extra-curricular activities – approval of policies on curriculum areas in accordance with the policy tracker, including meetings between the relevant subject governor and link governor
- Monitor Disabilities Special Educational Needs provision, including meetings between the SEND Governor and the INCo
- Monitor the achievement of children eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant, including meetings between the Pupil Premium Governor and the staff member responsible for PPG expenditure
- Monitor the achievement of LAC and post-LAC children, including meetings between the LAC governor and the Designated Teacher for LAC children
- Monitor pupil attendance – consideration of data
- Consider pupil behaviour and safety
- Discuss any child protection and pupil welfare issues - reports at every meeting on Safeguarding
- Review policies in accordance with the policy tracker

Governor Training:

All governors attend courses to ensure that their skills are commensurate with the needs of the school especially on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, data protection, safeguarding

and the new Ofsted framework. Future training will be undertaken virtually using the Lancashire training modules. New governors are recruited following a robust procedure, and are encouraged to have an active role within the committee

Future Plans for Continuous Improvement

Areas for governors to work on with senior leaders over the next year to continue the excellent work to date includes:

1. To further develop the curriculum implementation leading to pupils gaining the knowledge and skills in all curriculum subjects needed for their future learning.
2. Ensuring continued support is in place for the wellbeing of the children and staff, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. To embed the school's vision within the Local Governing Committee and the school by continuing to develop the ethos, Christian and British values, applying these in all decision making.
4. To engage fully with Trust surrounding the arrangements for Covid-19 pandemic to ensure optimum delivery of education to all pupils, including remote learning.
5. To develop independence skills, resilience and collaborative learning, through an engaging curriculum.
6. Ensuring that subject leaders are fully equipped and confident in their subject knowledge, and to provide the necessary training.
7. Assessing the impact of the Covid Catch Up Funds to support our children; -
8. To develop a 5 year buildings develop plan in collaboration with the Trust on the condition, suitability and sufficiency of the school site and its buildings, in order to provide a suitable environment for pupil and staff in which to teach and learn.
9. Above all, ensuring that the children are happy and healthy learners.

We as governors are extremely proud of how all our school community has pulled together throughout the pandemic.

Thank you to you all for helping and encouraging the children to stay happy and healthy during this difficult time.

Thank you to all our staff and the school leaders for the hard work they have done throughout this time.

Agreed by the Local Governing Committee on: 25. 11. 2021

Signed by the Chair: 