



# St. Nicholas C of E Primary School

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[www.st-nicholas-blackpool.org.uk](http://www.st-nicholas-blackpool.org.uk) Headteacher: Miss C Taylor, BA QTS, NPQH

## Annual Governance Statement for 2020-21

Governing boards are not required to produce an annual report, however at St Nicholas Church of England Primary School we believe that it is important that as a governing board we are open and transparent with our school community and have therefore decided to continue to publish an annual report that explains about the work of the governing body over the past year.

### Governance Structure

The governing board has strategic responsibility for the effective management of the school, acting within the framework set by national legislation and with due consideration to the policies of Blackpool Council and the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education. The governing board meets as a whole board twice per term.

### Committees

Our governing board have delegated certain aspects of our governance responsibilities to committees. This enables the board to ensure that we remain strategically focused on the agreed key areas of school development and work in an efficient way. It is decided which governors will join each committee by analysing governors' skills and experiences through a skills audit and assigning committee membership accordingly. Committee membership and the committee structure is reviewed at the beginning of each academic year. We currently have the following committees in place and have provided an overview of the focus and work of each committee during 2020-21:

Committee	Overview of work this year	Impact of the committee
Admissions	Review of admissions appeals	Fulfil rights of parents to appeals
Pay	Agreeing staff rates of pay	Retaining good quality staff
Appraisal	Assessing Headteacher performance	Ensuring school performance remains outstanding

### Monitoring Activity

One of the key functions of the governing board is to undertake strategic monitoring activity, the purpose of which is to triangulate information shared with governors by the senior leadership team. The governing board undertake a wide range of monitoring activity.



Due to the Covid pandemic many of the normal monitoring activities that depend on visiting the school have not been viable. The Governing Board did establish three strategic working groups that met during the academic year – Management and Leadership, Christian Distinctiveness and Curriculum and Learning.

The Governors and Head took advantage of an offer made by Blackpool Council to provide a governance review of the school. This has recently been completed and will be used to help shape future strategy, challenge and support for the senior leaders.

## Governor Training

The governing board take their responsibility to stay up to date seriously and place high importance on this. During the year the Chair completed the National Governance Association's Chairs Development Programme. Several governors have attended the regular Governor Briefings and other bespoke training offered by Blackpool Council during the year.

## Governors' Expenses

Governors are entitled to claim for any expenses they incur as a direct result of their governance role as per our governors' allowance policy, which can be found [on the school website](#). In the interest of transparency, the table below includes details of all expenses claimed by governors during 2020-21:

Amount claimed	Reason for the claim
<i>No governors have claimed any expenses during this academic year.</i>	<i>N/A</i>

## Governing Board Development Areas for 2021-22

Following a self-review of the governing board's performance over the last academic year, governors have identified that to continue the development of effective governance and to best support the school the following areas will be focused on in 2021-22:

- Ensuring the school's curriculum is appropriate and well taught
- Being critical friends in supporting and challenging the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher in the implementation of their vision for St Nicholas
- Maintaining the current skills mix of the governing body and ensuring all Governors contribute effectively to meetings and the wider development of the school
- Supporting the teachers and staff in the school in recovery following the pandemic and ensuring health and wellbeing of the school community is paramount