



St. Nicholas C of E Primary School

School Road, Marton Moss, Blackpool, FY4 5DS

Tel: 01253 966150 email: admin@st-nicholas.blackpool.sch.uk
www.st-nicholas-blackpool.org.uk Headteacher: Miss C Taylor, BA QTS, NPQH



Annual Governance Statement for the academic year 2022-23

1 – The Board of Governors

	First Appointed	Term Start	Term End
Foundation Ex-Officio Fr Martin Daniels	01 Nov 2017		
Foundation governors Mr David Barnes Mrs Susan Hauff Mrs Lucinda Moore Mrs Carolene Sargeant Mrs Claire Van Deurs Goss Vacancy (1)	30 Sep 2009 16 Jan 2020 09 May 2023 30 Apr 2012 20 May 2013	15 Sep 2023 16 Jan 2020 09 May 2023 30 Apr 2020 24 Aug 2021	14 Sep 2027 15 Jan 2024 08 May 2027 29 Apr 2024 23 Aug 2025
Headteacher Miss Claire Taylor	01 Jan 2020		
Local Authority governors Stephen Dunstan	23 Nov 2016	22 Nov 2020	21 Nov 2024
Parent governors Mrs Rabiya Fayyaz Mrs Kim Lovatt	15 Nov 2022 15 Nov 2022	15 Nov 2022 15 Nov 2022	14 Nov 2026 14 Nov 2026
Staff governor Ruth Horsfield	06 Feb 2021	06 Feb 2021	05 Feb 2025

2 – Attendance 2022/23 school year of current serving governors

Dave Barnes	6/6
Su Hauff	6/6
Carolene Sargeant	6/6
Claire Taylor	6/6
Stephen Dunstan	5/6
Ruth Horsfield	5/6
Claire Van Deurs Goss	5/6
Father Martin Daniels	4/6
Rabiya Fayyaz	3/4
Kim Lovatt	3/4
Lucinda Moore	1/1

3 – Clerk to Governors

Blackpool Governor Services, Bickerstaffe House, 1 Bickerstaffe Square, Blackpool, FY1 3AH

Contact: Gabriella Pardoe-Boi, Governor Services Advisor.

4 – Training undertaken by Governors during the school year

All governors completed Safeguarding Training during the period. In general terms the Foundation and Local Authority Governors are experienced with significant relevant training, and the emphasis of training has been on horizon scanning and keeping up to date with sector developments. In this regard the Governor Forums run by Blackpool Governor Services were well attended. Claire Taylor, Stephen Dunstan and Carolene Sargeant attended a full day Children's Services conference run by the local authority which was very successful. Claire Van Deurs Goss attended a Governor event hosted by the Diocese.

Particular attention in training has been given to the three strategic functions of the Board of Governors:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school

It is recognised that with the term of office of the Chair ending in November 2024 and the results of skills audits the financial performance oversight is the area where succession planning is required. To assist with this the School Business Manager did training for the Governing Body ahead of approval of the budget to ensure governors were equipped to undertake appropriate challenge.

5 – Chair's statement

The year under review started with the Ofsted inspection. The Governing Body responded to the challenge as positively and enthusiastically as the staff, with Governors even dialling in from foreign holidays to play their part in the inspection. Obviously, the retention of Ofsted Outstanding status was the key achievement of the school during the year, and it was pleasing that governance operated at a sufficiently high level to support the other aspects of the school being assessed at this level.

There have been issues at times in recent years with the levels of governor attendance so it is good that we now have a committed governing body who can generally be relied upon to attend meetings, and to do so having read the papers and ready to contribute to the discussion.

During the year we said goodbye to Katy Tyler-Arrowsmith, who was our external governor with current education experience. We are pleased to have been able to recruit Lucinda Moore to one of the two foundation governor vacancies, as someone who has good skills and experience in this area. The vacancy is an issue that needs addressing during the year ahead.

We had anticipated a SIAMS inspection during the year, but this will now probably be during the 2023/24 academic year. We are confident that our approach reflected in our vision that with God all things are possible will demonstrate that we should be judged favourably in this review.

We are appreciative of the high-quality support provided to us by Blackpool Governor Services in the clerk role. Over many years they have provided us with a professional and flexible clerking service that demonstrably meets our needs. We also engage DBE Services to support us with our school improvement agenda. With a third leg of support from the local education authority we are confident the school has been effectively governed during the period under review and is well placed to respond to future challenges and opportunities.

