



**ST. OSWALD'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**Chair's Report**  
**To**  
**Parents & Staff**  
**(Spring Term 2021-22)**

**Dr. A. J. Wilkinson**

**March 2022**

# **ST. OSWALD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## ***Three Core Functions of Governance:***

- 1. Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction*
- 2. Hold executive leaders to account for educational performance and performance management of staff*
- 3. Oversee financial performance and ensure money is well spent*

## **Introduction**

As mentioned at the start of the Autumn report, the governing body encompasses a variety of work / life backgrounds and we are appointed as governors through various routes. At the present time we have eleven governors, and we meet regularly as a board in order to act as a critical friend in both supporting and challenging the teaching staff on any aspect of school life. In addition to the reports we receive from the teaching staff, we are always very happy to hear about the experiences of parents and pupils. In order to help us to be effective as governors, we ensure our meetings centre around the three key areas of governance listed above.

## **Meetings – Spring Term 2021-22**

This term we have had two meetings of the governing body: in February and March. We have continued to hold these meetings virtually via Microsoft Teams. In these meetings we have discussed the following issues:-

- Governor training and recruitment – of particular note, we have organised a teaching session with a representative of the Archdiocese for governors and senior staff. This is themed on Mission and Ethos and will help us to deepen our understanding of our life as a Catholic school
- Monitoring the school's spending in relation to the budget set and beginning to think about next year's budget
- Pupil premium spending, and how this has an impact on children
- Progress and attainment of pupils, including an update on SEND pupils
- School Premises – including discussions of building work completed and areas where work will be required in the future

- Curriculum – in particular we have had a focus on subject leadership and have heard from teachers how work with the school improvement team has helped develop this. Subject leadership involves teachers taking a subject area and leading the curriculum across the whole school for this area. Although this has been in place for some time at St. Oswald's, there has been recent work to strengthen and develop this work and the governors have been looking at how this has helped to improve the quality of education our children receive. It is also worth noting that the curriculum plans are all viewable on the school website
- Discussion of the school's self-evaluation and improvement plan, in particular by looking at the feedback from the school improvement partner, who has reviewed these and offered feedback and appraisal
- OFSTED

### **Visits – Spring Term 2021-22**

Most governors have “link roles”, where they are allocated a specific area of school life that they take particular interest in. We are required to have governors allocated to Safeguarding and SEND in particular, but various other areas are also covered. These have changed slightly over recent months, and an updated list can be found on the “Governors” page of St. Oswald's website. We have continued to encourage these, and this term we have had the following visits into school:-

- Neil Holding / David Hughes / Andrew Wilkinson – Complaints Committee
- Deacon Paul Blinston – RE & Collective Worship
- Chris Beaney – English

After each visit, governors have presented reports to the rest of the governing body on their findings, which helps us when we are reviewing all of the areas listed above in our meetings. Having a working understanding of how the school works is a vital part of being a governor, and we look forward to having more such visits in the Summer term.

### **Personnel Changes – Autumn Term 2021-22**

We have had no changes in personnel over the past term:-

- **RESIGNATIONS** – no resignations received
- **NEW GOVERNORS** – no new governors appointed

We completed a skills audit of the current governing body in order to identify any areas of weakness within the current team. Having discovered that we do possess a good breadth of skills we have submitted a request to the Local Authority for a new LA governor that will complement and enhance our board. At the time of writing we are awaiting a response from the Local Authority to inform us of suitable candidates.

## **Conclusion**

Hopefully this report gives an idea of some of the work of the governing body. As I said in the Autumn term report, I think it is important everyone knows about this aspect of school life, and I would be very happy to be contacted via the school office with any queries you may have about our role. As always I would like to thank Mrs. Hassan and all of the staff at the school for their hard work and dedication, and all of our parents for their support. For our whole school community, I would also like to give my best wishes for Easter.

Dr. A. J. Wilkinson