

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Annual Governance Statement

Academic Year 2021-2022



“Doing our best for God”

To be reviewed Autumn 2023.

The previous two years (and counting) have been particularly challenging, due to the pandemic and ensuring that pupils and staff remained as safe as we could plan and work with, and with the ongoing expectation that the school was overdue inspection by Ofsted and the Lancaster Diocese regarding standards of catholic education. These factors have added to the day-to-day concerns that the SMT have for the physical and mental wellbeing of everyone in the school. We, the governors, are therefore very proud of the way that the school was able to continue to educate the children of “essential workers”, and latterly, all of our pupils, even though the risks associated with Covid had not (and indeed-continue) to be present. Similarly, after this unexpected disruption, the school was inspected and we are delighted that the diocese judged the school to be “outstanding” and Ofsted judged the school to be maintaining its previously good standards. A very commendable effort by all.

As governors we are very aware of the hard work and dedication shown by all members of staff in maintaining these high standards but our awareness includes the commitment and effort shown by our pupils and their parents and carers. The children remain our reason for being and their welfare and willingness to come to school and demonstrate their own commitment is inspiring.

As we start the new academic year the school continues to strive for the best education that can be provided and to continue to “do our best for God”. This requires regular evaluation of performance and management.

This statement and report are part of that evaluation process:

School Development Plan (SDP):

Governors work co-operatively with the Senior Leadership Team in the writing and monitoring of the School Development Plan. This Plan sets the aims for the forthcoming year. The current SDP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted and is set out with clear aims, the key tasks which will be completed in order to achieve these aims and the success criteria in order to measure outcomes. The SDP is monitored and reviewed half termly, with the evaluation overview completed and presented to Governors termly as part of the Headteacher’s report.

The current targets of the School Development Plan are:

Priority 1-Quality of Education

HIGH attainment

Raising the % of pupils attaining HIGH R+W+M combined.

Continued and in response to 2022 data.

Priority 2 – Quality of Education

Curriculum

To work collaboratively, as a team, to ensure that we identify the key knowledge taught throughout the school curriculum.

To assess consistently the key information that pupils learn across all subjects.

In response to Ofsted outcomes 2022

Priority 3 – Maths

To raise the profile of Maths, within St Bernadette's, so it is at least as prominent as phonics and reading, within the Curriculum, to enable raised attainment.

Continued in response to 2022 Data

Priority 4 - RE

To ensure that the quality of teaching and learning across school remains high when the new curriculum directives become embedded.

To support the New Parish priest (Father David) in ensuring that the school and parish continue the excellent links, identified in the Section 48 report.

Governor Visits:

The Governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SDP and of specific issues, (eg Behaviour and Safety) and these are considered a valued opportunity for Governors to be able to work closely with staff. Link Governors support school in specific subject areas.

Examples of the impact of these visits include:

- Co-operative working between the school and parish activities
- Completion of a safety audit and priorities identified

- Co-operative working to prepare and introduce the new school development plan

Data Analysis:

Data is made available to Governors through termly meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions with the senior leadership team. This ensures that the school standards and expectations are high and are able to be closely scrutinised.

Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of Pupil Premium.

Policy Management:

Governors review all relevant policies to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date.

Governors review the Policy Delegation Planner in the Autumn term.

Financial Management

The Governing Body has expertise in school financial management and Governors have worked to achieve the Schools Financial Value Standard.

The impact of the Governor's role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and the best value is sought in all areas of procurement.

The school has submitted a business case for funding to improve the access to the year 2 classroom and to upgrade the toilets/cloakroom areas in years 1 and 2.

Safer Recruitment

Members of the Senior Leadership Team and Governors are trained in Safer Recruitment and Governors are involved in the recruitment and selection of all teaching staff and ensure that high quality staff who share the school mission statement and aims are appointed.

Governor Meeting Attendance

Due to there being four vacancies for Foundation Governors, it has been more challenging to ensure that a quorum is present, especially at committee meetings. This is an area that Governors will continue to focus on and should be resolved as further Foundation Governors are appointed.

Governor Training:

Governors access support and training from the following:

- Governor Hub
- National Governors Association
- Diocesan training
- School based training

Governors training is documented on the school website and Governor Hub.

Pupil progress- all pupils are monitored and tracked each term and any concerns addressed. Whole school writing remains the focus over the course of the year.

External Assessment

Diocese RE inspection- school awarded 'outstanding' 2022

Ofsted inspection- 'good' June 2022.

Future and Continuous Improvement:

The Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team are continually striving to improve and develop the school and ongoing improvement is sought in the following areas:

- Continued improvement in pupil progress and attainment across all ability groups including vulnerable groups
- Ensure scrutiny of all monitoring and tracking of pupils throughout the school
- Ensure the continued focus on the School Development Plan
- Continued recruitment, training and upskilling of the Governing Body.