

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Annual Governance Statement

Academic Year 2023-2024



“Doing our best for God”

To be reviewed Autumn 2024.

St. Bernadette's will become part of the Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi-Academy Trust (BEBCMAT) as part of the Lancaster Diocese plan to see all catholic schools, primary and secondary integrated into multi-academy trusts over the next few years. It must be emphasised that this is not due to problems at our school but as part of a program to bring numerous benefits to all pupils, staff and schools in the Lancaster diocese. This process has already started within the local area with a number of schools already within the trust. St. Bernadette's is currently undergoing integration and Mrs. Satterthwaite, staff and governors will be fully involved in the process and will endeavour to ensure that parents, guardians and carers of our pupils are kept up-to-date with progress.

This statement and report are part of that integration 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

Writing

To focus on writing, particularly in years 1, 3, 4 & 5 to encourage steady improvement.

Ensure that the NC programme of study is taught.

Priority 2 – Quality of Education

Curriculum

To continue to prioritise how we measure assessment of pupil understanding of foundation subjects that are taught.

This is a three year objective following the Ofsted inspection in 2022.

Priority 3 – Maths

To raise the profile of Maths, to affirm the positive achievements recognised in 2023 data.

Priority 4 – Personal Development

To ensure that all children are supported in being able to achieve the St. Bernadette's expectations for behaviour and attitudes in and around school.

To support our children to learn and grow as responsible, kind citizens here and in the wider community.

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

Data Analysis:

The governors are regularly briefed regarding the performance/achievements and expectations for the school. Mrs. Satterthwaite and the senior management team provide both written and verbal data in a format that is comprehensible to non-education professionals. Any questions are comprehensively answered and governors are fully aware of the management and objectives planned and the standards/performance of St. Bernadette's and local (and national) standards.

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.

Finance, Resources and Staffing Management

These areas are monitored via a committee that meets in accordance with the policy described in the “Terms of Reference”.

This academic year in particular will see detailed examination of the whole school in preparation for inclusion within the Blessed Edward Bamber Academy.

Great emphasis is made to ensure that the school accounts are managed accurately and undergo independent audit in all aspects to ensure financial integrity.

This year has seen the replacement of the library roof, which was not keeping the weather out and was proving difficult to heat due to the lack of insulation.

Direct liaison with the Diocese property services engineers has confirmed that St. Bernadette’s has no RAAC concrete in any of the structures.

There are plans to refurbish parts of the school playground to ensure they remain in good repair and fit for use.

Maintaining a professional committed staff at the school remains a priority and the senior management team are very aware of the need to ensure staff are adequately supported to meet the changing needs of the pupils.

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.

External Assessment

There are no inspections from Ofsted planned for the next academy year but there is currently full examination of all aspects of school management in preparation for integration into the BEBCMAT. The plan is that St. Bernadette's (along with some other local schools) will become a full part of the trust in the next twelve months.

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.
- Ensure that St. Bernadette's becomes part of the greater "community" of schools that constitute BEBCMAT. It will be a challenge, but with the tremendous support already shown to the school by the executive team at the trust, hard work and continued prayers for success we are sure this will be achieved.