

**St Oswald's C of E (VA) Primary School**

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of St Oswald's C of E (VA) Primary School  
SEPTEMBER 2022**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the St Oswald's Primary School Governing Body are:

- 1. Ensuring the clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- 2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent**

<p>Governance Arrangements</p>	<p>The Governing Body of St Oswald's Primary School has continued to work hard during the past year. There are 8 Governors and 2 Associate Members with a vast array of experience from both industry and the education sector. Personnel include a headteacher, an ex-assistant headteacher, classroom teachers, accountants and managers from national companies and the Diocese of Leeds as well as two parents.</p> <p>The full Governing Body met once each term (twice in the Autumn) with additional meetings held to update the governing body member's knowledge and understanding of key issues, such as safeguarding training for governors. We also have a number of sub-committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources and buildings committee</li> <li>• Staffing committee</li> <li>• Teaching and learning committee</li> <li>• Pupil support committee</li> <li>• Pay committee</li> </ul> <p>There are also other committees that meet if required to consider disciplinary procedures. Meetings have mostly taken place in person.</p>
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<p>Attendance of Governors</p>	<p>Governors continue to have excellent attendance at meetings. All attendance is logged on the Governor Support Services Website and details are available on request.</p>
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<p>The work that we have done as a Full Governing Body and within committees</p>	<p>The Governing Body has had, yet again, a particularly busy year, supporting the school in its efforts to return to a more 'normal' routine following the pandemic and working hard to support the school family during this time. Mr Davies has made a significant impact since joining us in January 2021 and the school is moving forwards with rapid improvements in the curriculum, wellbeing. Leadership and inclusion.</p> <p>The new initiatives introduced last year are now embedded across the school and are having a positive effect on teaching and learning as well as wellbeing. These include Forest School provision, a whole school approach to teaching metacognition as well as 'The Thrive Approach'.</p> <p>The Resources Committee met to consider the latest budgetary information, as well as examining cash-flow statements and the school's income and expenditure. Future funding forecasts were also discussed. The committee also considered and agreed the school budget for 2022/23.</p> <p>The teaching and learning committee met to discuss the curriculum provision provided for all pupils during the last academic year. Its intent, implementation, and impact on pupil progress. It also looked at the engagement of pupils and their families with the provision and its impact on pupils. It found that the school had robust measures to assess and track pupils closely and make informed decisions regarding intervention. The committee looked at pupil progress for all pupils across the school, including the use of catch-up funding and its use to free up staff to work with the most vulnerable pupils and those affected most by the pandemic. The committee also looked closely at exciting new curriculum initiatives; the Thrive approach to learning, a focus on outdoor learning, the STEM classroom and teaching children about metacognition. All these initiatives and are having a positive impact on the quality of education received by all pupils.</p>
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	<p>The Pupil Support Committee will be re-introduced from September 2022 with Rachel Moss-Blundell as Chair. This will work very closely with the Inclusion Team and will focus on Student support and wellbeing</p> <p>The Staffing Committee met to discuss and consider the recommendations made by the Head Teacher in relation to teachers' pay progression as a result of the completion of the 2021/22 performance management cycle.</p> <p>The Full Governing Body discussed and considered many issues over the course of the year, in particular those related to pupil progress and achievement (Presented by the Teaching and Learning Committee along with the Head Teacher). The School Development Plan and Self Evaluation Form were at the centre of all discussions to ensure the school was maintaining its three main foci agreed for the year. The Head Teacher presented a comprehensive report at each meeting (including the reporting of attendance issues) and other key members of staff were invited to present similar reports, either in person or otherwise.</p> <p>One of the roles for the Governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies. This year, they considered several key policies, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy</li> <li>• Safer Recruitment Policy</li> <li>• First Aid Policy</li> <li>• Teachers Pay Policy 2021-22</li> <li>• Educational Visits Policy</li> <li>• Probationary Policy for School Support Staff</li> <li>• Leave of Absence and Annual Leave Policy</li> <li>• Whistleblowing Policy</li> <li>• Admission Policy 23/24</li> <li>• Written Statement of Behaviour Principles (for website)</li> <li>• Behaviour Policy</li> </ul>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>We have welcomed three new governors in 2022. David Jones, Jay Atkinson and Kevin Greenwood, all as Foundation governors. We are now a fully staffed governing body with a wide-ranging and extensive knowledge and experience base both from education and business. Many schools struggle to recruit governors, but this is not the case at St Oswald's. We are very proud of our team and everything they do to support our children and staff.</p> <p>Governors will continue to promote the school in the local and wider community. It is vital that we attract new families so that we can have a full reception cohort in September 2023. We welcome the continued presence 'Kangaroo Club' who continue to work in partnership with our school and hope that this new provision will help attract new children and families.</p> <p>During the summer break we have had further work undertaken on the fabric of the building with the aim to improve the learning environment and general experience for all the children, staff and Parents who are part of the St Oswald's School Family. Work has included the conversion of the old staffroom into a STEM room where children can go to experience practical skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.</p>
<p>How you can contact the governing body</p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from Parents – Please contact the Chair of Governors (Mr Martin Baker) via the school office. You can see more information about the role of the governing body in the Governors' section of the school website</p>