

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 2023

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"> • Resources and buildings committee • Staffing committee • Teaching and learning committee • Pupil support committee • Pay committee <p>There are also other committees that meet if required to consider disciplinary procedures. Meetings have mostly taken place in person.</p>
<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>
<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 provide a first-class, fully inclusive educational experience for all children and working hard to support the school family in general. Mr Davies continues to make a significant impact in driving the school forwards with rapid improvements in the curriculum, wellbeing. Leadership and inclusion.</p> <p>The new initiatives introduced in 2021 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' and our STEM classroom.</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 2023/24.</p>

The teaching and learning committee met to discuss curriculum provision; its intent, implementation and impact on all pupils' progress across the school including the most vulnerable and those still affected by the pandemic. It also looked at the engagement of pupils and their families with the curriculum provision and found that the school has robust measures to track pupils closely and make informed decisions regarding intervention. A range of intervention strategies, including the use of support staff, have positively impacted on pupils' progress including the most vulnerable. Subject leaders are ensuring a consistent approach to curriculum planning and delivery.

The pupil support committee was re-established in November 2022 and three meetings have been held during this academic year. This sub-committee has the strategic oversight of school development priority 2, which is "to achieve highly effective provision for disadvantaged learners in our school". The committee reviews performance data at each meeting which shows that we have much to be proud of regarding the achievement of our disadvantaged learners in school. The committee have also received reports on our increasing number of SEND children this academic year, and how these children are supported by our school SENDCo and Family Support Worker.

The committee also reviews the way in which the pupil premium funding is spent in school. This money is spent across three main areas of expenditure which includes curriculum development, whole school approaches to support effective teaching and learning and targeted support. The committee reviewed the data which shows that the newly implemented whole-school approach to inclusion and the newly established inclusion team, were making a significant and positive impact on the achievement of our strategic priority.

This year, the Pupil Support Committee also received the findings of the local authority Safeguarding Audit, which highlighted the robustness of school safeguarding policy and practice, including some elements of exemplary practice.

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 2022/23 performance management cycle.

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 always sits 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. We have also been researching and considering the possibility of academisation. Several governors have been pivotal in this work, attending meetings, presentations with a variety of academies and their CEO's, other schools and other education authorities. We, as a full governing body have decided now is the time to reflect on what we have learned before pursuing this any further. Conversations will obviously continue and we will remain fully transparent with developments and inform stakeholders as and when appropriate.

	<p>Another important role for Governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies. This year, we have considered several key policies, all of which can be found on the school website.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>This year we have welcomed two new governors. Jon Baker and Jacqui Hallam, both as Foundation governors. Miss Miller has been voted onto the board as Staff Governor, taking over from Mr North who we thank very much for his long tenure with us and his wealth of experience. 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 2024. We are very excited with the opening of our new Pre-School Nursery Provision and hope that this will continue to attract new children and families to our school. We would also like to record our thanks to Miss Miller who has been instrumental in setting up the provision and who will be overseeing the nursery daily.</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.</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>