

# 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 2024

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**

### Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body of St Oswald's Primary School has continued to work hard during the past year. There are 10 Governors and 2 Associate Members with a vast array of experience from both industry and the education sector. Personnel include a recently retired headteacher, an ex-assistant headteacher, classroom teachers, accountants and managers from national companies and the Diocese of Leeds as well as two parents.

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:

- Resources and buildings committee
- Staffing committee
- Teaching and learning committee
- Pupil support committee
- Pay committee
- Head Teachers appraisal and pay committee

There are also other committees that meet if required to consider disciplinary procedures. Meetings have mostly taken place in person.

### Attendance of Governors

Governors continue to have excellent attendance at meetings. All attendance is logged on the Governor Support Services Website and details are available on request.

### The work that we have done as a Full Governing Body and within committees

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. This was further validated in December when we received a good judgement from Ofsted.

The new initiatives introduced in 2021 are now fully 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.

The Resources and Staffing Committee met to consider the latest budgetary information, as well as examining cash-flow statements and the school's income and expenditure. This process is done in conjunction with Leeds schools finance and the wider DFE funding team. Several key decisions were made (following the 2023 Teacher pay update) regarding teaching staff structure and nursery provision/capacity, these decisions were made to protect the school from an increasing risk of budget deficit as well as to create opportunity for some of our brightest and most experienced staff to develop their careers further by taking on additional responsibilities either at St Oswald's, at other Schools in the region or at the Airborough learning trust. Having overseen several staff move on in 2024, the committee has supported school to recruit replacements and continue to prioritise retaining and growing our talent whilst having positive influence on the wider schools community locally. In other areas the committee supported School's leaders in decisions for catering contract review and selection of new provider, ICT contract review and the ongoing buildings and premises updates as well as safety audits.

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. 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. The curriculum is ambitious and challenging for high prior attaining pupils. A range of intervention strategies, including the use of support staff, have positively impacted on pupils' progress including the most vulnerable. The improved outcomes and opportunities for disadvantaged pupils has occurred through their systematic prioritisation.

Subject leaders are ensuring a consistent approach to curriculum planning and delivery which was seen in the recent inspection. The key initiatives of Thrive, Forrest Schools, the STEM classroom and children learning about metacognition are embedded and having a positive impact on the quality of education received by all pupils.

The pupil support committee has focused this year on how our disadvantaged learners and our children with Education Care and Health Plans (EHCP) are supported in school. Members of the committee have undertaken visits to school and have scrutinised the way in which these plans are developed and implemented. The committee receives regular reports from the school inclusion team about their work and their intervention priorities as the academic year progresses. This year we have focused specifically on: safeguarding, alternative provision for our children, exclusions and behaviour monitoring.

The committee have overseen interventions from the school's leadership team on issues such as the review of the Thrive provision and funding for our disadvantaged learners. With our school leaders, the committee ensures that the local authority is implementing their duties and legal responsibilities to our pupils fairly and effectively.

The committee have received regular reports regarding the achievement of our disadvantaged learners and children with EHCP's. Again, this year, there is much to be proud of. The data that we see shows the impact that effective interventions are having on the achievement of our pupils across school but in particular, our children who sometimes require help and support to achieve their best.

	<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 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.</p> <p>We have continued 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> <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>Governors are committed to promoting the school in the local and wider community. This year we are over-subscribed in reception and have not been able to offer some children a place. It is vital that we continue to attract new families so that we can have a full reception cohort once again in September 2025. We are delighted that our Pre-School Nursery Provision is flourishing and continues to attract new children and families to our school. We would also like to record our thanks to Miss Miller who was instrumental in setting up the provision and continues to oversee the nursery daily.</p> <p>During the summer break we have had further work undertaken on the fabric of the building, including the complete refurbishment of a year 3 classroom, 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>