

St. Bede's R.C. Primary School South Shields **Governors' Annual Statement 2021-22**

We are fortunate to have a strong, skilled and experienced Local Governing Committee to support our school community. The Governors carry out a wide range of responsibilities for the benefit of our children, parents/carers and staff.

In 2013 we had our Ofsted Inspection and we are extremely proud that the school was judged to be 'Outstanding' for the first time:

"Governors are enthusiastic about the school and determined to be outstanding in their contribution. As one said in interview, "We want to be as professional as the staff". Led excellently by the Chair of the Governing Body they have taken part in training and worked tirelessly to develop their role. They work with subject coordinators to develop their understanding of what happens in classrooms and are proud to offer suggestions for improving provision, such as developing plans for the EYFS outdoors area and exploring possibilities for using the bungalow and grounds. They are rigorous in their scrutiny of teachers' and the school's performance and are well-informed when making decisions about pay. They ensure that safeguarding requirements are met and also work when needed with the wider community to ensure the safety of pupils in school." **Ofsted March 2013**

Who are we and what do we do?

Governance is outstanding. Governors attend local authority training which the school buys into and also attend training from the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust. Consequently, governors are very well informed and able to support and challenge the school appropriately. Governors specialise in specific areas of school governance. As a result governors have a higher level of expertise in aspects of governance and are in a strong position to support and challenge the school in specific areas. Governors take their roles and responsibilities seriously. Link governors meet with subject leaders to discuss strengths and areas for development across the school. Subject leaders present reports to governors on monitoring and work scrutiny to inform governors of standards and achievement in each area of the curriculum. The headteacher's presentations and reports to governors outline school priorities as indicated by ASP and self-evaluation. Governors are therefore knowledgeable about the school's strengths and areas for development and are fully equipped to challenge school leaders to strive for high standards and pupil well-being. Governors are rigorous in their scrutiny of teachers' and the school's performance and are well-informed when making decisions about pay. Through highly effective, rigorous planning and controls, governors ensure financial stability, including the effective and efficient management of financial resources such as pupil premium and sports funding. This has led to the excellent deployment of staff and resources to the benefit of all groups of pupils.

The Main Roles for Governors:

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

Key Issues that have faced the Governing Board during 2021-22

We have worked in cooperation with the new Headteacher and senior management in establishing the School Improvement Plan (SIP). The current SIP is based on priorities identified from data, school self- evaluation, and external and Ofsted priorities. The SIP is set out with clear aims, the key tasks which will be completed, and the success criteria in order to measure outcomes. The SIP is monitored and reviewed termly and is reported to us through the Headteacher's report to Governors.

The current targets in the School Improvement Plan are:

- Further raise standards of pupil achievement through EYFS, KS1, KS2 for reading, writing and maths and particularly for the progress of vulnerable pupils.
- Improve the percentage of pupils achieving the greater depth standard
- Ensure an outstanding quality of education is provided which is built on an ambitious, coherently sequenced, broad and balanced curriculum which opens doors to future successes. Continue to ensure that all curriculum areas are embedded securely and consistently across school and that they are coherently planned and well sequenced.
- Continue to ensure that strategies to raise attendance and reduce persistent absenteeism especially for the disadvantaged pupils are embedded securely and consistently.
- Continue to develop role of middle leaders to be able to fully articulate the intent, implementation and impact of the subject areas they lead and to continue to ensure high standards are maintained across the school in every curriculum area and that the curriculum is coherently planned and sequenced and fully embedded across school
- Ensure provision in Early Years continues to be outstanding. Ensure a culture of communication and language and reading and vocabulary continues to be high priority
- To further develop the Catholic life and mission of the school

Impact of the Governing Board during 2021-22

- The school has retained the School Games Kitemark Platinum Award for PE and Sport provision; we were the first school in the local authority to achieve this award, and indeed one of the first schools in the country. We have also been re-accredited with the Healthy Schools Award this year.
- The computer suite has been redecorated
- To further improve security arrangements for school we have had CCTV installed around the site.

We have appointed:

- One permanent headteacher
- One permanent deputy headteacher
- Two permanent teachers
- One permanent caretaker
- Two lunchtime supervisory assistants

- One fixed term teaching assistant
- Three fixed term 1:1 learning support assistants

The Governors are committed to ensuring that the school budget is spent wisely and for the benefit of the pupils. Governors are responsible for monitoring the impact and the use of the Pupil Premium Grant. Detailed information about the Pupil Premium Grant can be seen on the school website. The impact of Sports Grant is also monitored by Governors. A full report on spending and impact can be seen on the school website. We are delighted that the school has achieved the Kitemark Platinum for P.E. and Sports provision again this year. The school's provision for Sport and PE is outstanding and the Governors are extremely proud of the children's participation and achievement in sport this year. Governors are committed to ensuring the effectiveness of school safeguarding. The Vice Chair meets with the Headteacher and Caretaker to monitor Health and Safety and physical improvements to the school. Our safeguarding link governor meets regularly with the headteacher to review safeguarding practices within school and to monitor that the Single Central Record is kept up-to-date.

We look forward to another exciting and productive year ahead and will continue to work with integrity and commitment for the benefit of the pupils, staff and school community at St. Bede's School.

Catherine Ellwood Chair of Governors 2022