

## **St. Bede's R.C. Primary School South Shields** **Governors' Annual Statement 2019-20**

We are fortunate to have a strong, skilled and experienced Governing Body 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 extending the range of maps available. 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 all governors attended the high quality Governor Mark training which was held in school. Consequently governors are very well informed and able to support and challenge the school appropriately. Membership of sub committees and attendance at sub- committee meetings enable Governors to specialise in 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 observe lessons and discuss strengths and areas for development. 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 Chair has a wide range of relevant experience in education: until retirement, she was Head of EMTAS in Sunderland local authority; she has chaired South Tyneside’s local authority’s Safeguarding and Education panel; she is Vice Chair of South Tyneside Housing Ventures Trust and she sits on the board of North East Child Poverty Commission and the

North East Combined Authority. She is regularly invited by the local authority to share her expertise with governing bodies in other schools. As a result of her experience and knowledge, she leads the Governing Body skilfully and effectively.

To find out more about the role of the Governors and who we are please visit our school website. There you will find information on each member of the Governing Body. Governors are there to support and challenge the decisions made about your child's education.

### **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 2019-20**

We have worked in cooperation with the 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:

- To ensure the learning needs of all pupils are met and that high targets for attainment and progress are reached
- Maintaining our high expectations of pupil achievement in English across the school
- Maintaining our high expectations in mathematics across the school
- Ensuring high academic standards and outcomes in English and mathematics are also achieved in other subject areas
- Ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum
- To reduce the impact of lost learning time
- To provide remote learning when needed
- To transition the school into Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust

### **Assessment of the Impact of the Governing Board during 2018-19-20**

The impact of Governors' work in 2018-19-20 has been that:

- The EYFS and Phonics screening data for the school was above the national average. The attainment in KS1 was at least at the national average and most often above in the KS1 tests. In KS2 attainment was well above the national average for pupils reaching the expected level and working at greater depth in all subjects. The

combined percentage of pupils attaining the expected level in reading, writing and mathematics at KS2 was 80% compared to the local authority average of 66%, and the national average of 65%. The percentage of pupils attaining above the expected level in reading, writing and mathematics was 27% compared the local authority average of 12%, and the national average of 11%. The school improvement drive to raise standards in reading at the expected level and at the higher standard was highly effective with 83% of pupils attaining the expected standard and 57% attaining the higher standard.

- The school achieved the School's Financial Value Standard (SFVS)
- The school retained Kitemark Platinum for PE and Sport provision in 2019- the first school in the local authority to achieve this award, and indeed one of the first schools in the country.
- New carpets were laid in KS2 classrooms and cloakrooms
- KS2 classrooms and cloakrooms were redecorated
- A temporary teacher was appointed in Y1 to cover a year's maternity leave
- A new caretaker was appointed

The Governors' resources committee specialises in school finance and meets with the Headteacher to ensure best value. 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 last 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 Chair of the Resources committee meets with the Headteacher and Caretaker to monitor Health and Safety and physical improvements to the school.

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.

Margaret Meling  
Chair of Governors  
2020

