



Annual Governance Statement for St Oswald's CE VA Primary School
2018-2019

We are delighted to present the Governance Statement for St Oswald's CE VA Primary School for the academic year 2018-2019.

Our Governance Statement is an opportunity to present the joint working of the governing board and the senior leadership team of the school for this academic year, and we hope that you find it informative and it demonstrates the strategic view and direction of the school working hand-in-hand with the governing body.

We look forward to the ensuing year, and the opportunity to ensure that St Oswald's continues to provide an environment in which pupils can aspire, believe and connect.

This annual statement outlines how the Governing Body has worked in the past year to fulfil its responsibilities and achieve the three core strategic functions of:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure value for money is offered.

Composition of the Governing Board

- 7 Foundation
- 1 LEA
- 2 Parent
- 1 Staff
- 1 Head teacher

Committees of the Governing Board

- Complaints & Pupil Discipline
- Admissions
- Resources
- Appeals

Chair of Governors

Councilor Adam Ellison

Vice Chair of Governors

Mrs Gemma Mordue

In our Ofsted Inspection in June 2015 the report stated,

"The governing body is well informed and governors use their many skills to hold leaders to account for standards in the school. They have an accurate view of the strengths of the school and where leaders should focus their efforts to bring about further improvements. "

More recently in a report from the School Improvement Advisor (Margaret Armstrong) the following was stated;

"Governors are knowledgeable about the work of the school and use their expertise well to hold leaders to account. They share the headteacher's commitment to securing the highest standards of care and academic progress for pupils. Governors are fully

aware of the main areas for development; the head teacher's reports provide them with the information they need to provide an effective balance of challenge and support.

We have a continuing commitment to evaluate the role we play within the life of the school, and ensure that we continue to develop as a governing body. This statement is part of that evaluation and publication process.

School Development Plan (SDP)

Governors work co-operatively with the head teacher and senior management in the writing and monitoring the School Development Plan. The School Development Plan sets aims for the forthcoming year. The current SDP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SDP is monitored and reviewed termly, with an evaluation overview being completed and presented to governors alongside the HT report. In addition to that termly monitoring the governors are encouraged to reflect upon the key priorities of the SDP during their link visits.

Current priorities are:

1. Leadership and Management

How does CPD impact stakeholders to create a climate in which they feel empowered to take risks and innovate in ways that are right for our pupils?

2. Teaching, Learning and Assessment

How can teachers use every opportunity to develop vocabulary, equipping all pupils with the skills to make progress and ensure they are prepared for their next step in education?

3. Teaching, Learning and Assessment How do the building blocks of arithmetic have an impact on reasoning at St Oswald's?

4. Early Years

How can we diminish the difference between boys and girls good level of development attainment in Early Years?

5. Outcomes for Pupils

How can we ensure stretch and challenge for our more able learners across the curriculum?

Leadership and Management

a) Pupil Voice

The governors have listened to the voice of the pupils this year and received presentations from both the School Council and The Christian Council. The children have pitched their plans to the governors and have requested a bid for funding linked to the projects they had for 2018-2019.

b) Mental Health

A huge emphasis has been placed on reducing the stigma regarding mental health within our school community for children, staff and parents. Governors have developed the role of the family support worker. As part of this agenda the identity of pupils has been a key area for discussion linked to the implementation of the equality objectives plan and changes to policy and procedures regarding this, such as making changes to the uniform policy to ensure it is no longer gender specific.

c) Curriculum

The development of our curriculum is a piece of work we are extremely proud of. A number of presentations have been given by Victoria McKeown across the academic year to provide regular updates of our how our curriculum is growing. There is a shared vision regarding the curriculum rationale and this will further be developed with the I's which are outlined in the up and coming new Ofsted framework for the next academic year.

Being part of the pilot inspections for the new framework has given us a clear insight into Intent, Implimentation and Impact of the curriculum and has provided an excellent basis for our development priorities for the acadmic year of 2019-2020.

Data analysis

Helen Smith presents data to the governors on a very regular basis. This is an opportunity for the governors to ask challenging questions to ensure that all pupils are making progress and are working toward age related expectations. We are aware of the data of similar schools in our town and nationally and can use these comparisons to monitor our standards and understand the relevance of the targets that have been set for attainment and progress.

Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium.

Policies

Governors review all relevant policies on a programmed basis to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date. They also monitor the relevance of the policies and ensure that they are embedded and that staff have up to date

knowledge of expectations. Governors are aware of the particular policies that impact upon their link areas and can discuss the implications with staff. Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education mandatory policy list and the Local Authority recommended list.

Finance

Governors regularly monitor the school spend to ensure that the budget is managed effectively and that the money is spent wisely to ensure the most impact for the pupils therefore showing value for money. The three year budget and yearly budget is shared and discussed with all governors and questions are welcomed. The budget is monitored by governors on a three monthly basis.

The aim of this work is for school to benefit from management's ability to make decisions based on a clear understanding of future finances, maximising the use of available resources.

Summary and future plans

Our plans this year include a focus upon cultural capital, continued monitoring of the key priorities in the SDP through link visits, learning walks, book scrutinies and close involvement in all aspects of school life.

Governors can be contacted through school and we welcome your comments and feedback at any time.

