



# St. Francis Church of England Primary School

## School Contact Details:

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**School Vision:** Our aim at St. Francis Church of England Primary School is to guide our children to live fulfilling lives, rooted in the values taught by Jesus based on the gospel value of love for one another.

**School Mission Statement:** Love Faith. Love People. Love Learning.

**School Values:** love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

## St Francis C of E Governing Board – Annual Statement

### School Vision

To guide our children to live fulfilling lives, rooted in the values taught by Jesus, based on the Gospel value of love for one another.

### Love Faith. Love People. Love Learning.

Last year, I wrote to you in October to update you on governance at St Francis and as we come to the end of the academic year, I am writing to you again to update you on both the progress made in 2019-20 and of the Governing Boards strategic priorities for 2020-21.

Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted many of our children attending school during the Spring and Summer terms, we have continued in the background to do as much as we can in order to make significant inroads on our journey, to enable us to achieve our strategic priorities. As we move forward – whatever that looks like, we will continue to focus on strengthening our foundations across school.

### Governors' Role

The role of the Governing Board is an intrinsic part of the leadership of the school, although often unseen by parents and other community stakeholders. We are here to oversee the school is providing the best possible outcomes for your child(ren) to the best of their abilities. This impact statement is one way in which the Governing Board articulates their role in school leadership, the impact we have had on school improvement, and how we have been transparent about these activities. The Governing Board is made up of a group of dedicated volunteers, who invest a huge amount of good will, hard work and time for the sole purpose of improving the education of every child in our school. The Government expects us as your Governing Board to be a dynamic group of highly skilled individuals who focus on supporting the Headteacher and all the staff to shape the strategic direction of school. As Governors we are accountable for the performance of our school and we are measured by three core strategic functions:

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

### Training

Following the extensive programme of training and support undertaken last year, all members of the Governing Board continue to engage in training. The impact of this is that the Governing Board are kept abreast of their responsibilities regarding the latest requirements and expectations. Learning and actions from training is shared at Full Governing Board meetings.

### Full Governing Board Meetings

Each term in addition to the Full Governing Board meeting, Governors are invited to attend two committees: Curriculum and Resources, in addition, Governors may also attend monitoring visits at the school; the purpose of this is determined by areas of focus on the school improvement plan. For example, meeting with the Headteacher to review the curriculum and its impact.

The impact of this is that governors understand and gain knowledge in areas of strengths and areas which need focus in teaching and practices within the school. This enables us to understand how good practice within school is being shared to benefit the whole of all the school years, and focus our attention on areas of development or concern which have been identified. We use different sources of information from the school and through benchmarking to get the full picture about how the school is doing, whether good, bad or in-between.

## Headteacher's Appraisal

A subset of the Governing Board carry out the Headteacher Appraisal annually. A number of Governors have undertaken Headteacher's Appraisal Training, and with professional support from an independent educational advisor through the Local Authority, the appraisal is carried out. The appraisal process allows us to look closely at the performance of the Headteacher, have discussions about areas of strengths and where necessary, areas for development. New targets are then set against criteria, which the Headteachers performance will be evaluated.

## Further Impact across the School

As Governors we celebrate the great work around the school and provide challenge and support in areas that can improve, we also monitor progress in all areas and during 2019-20 we have:

1. **Recruitment** – As part of our intent for 2019-20 our key priority was to secure permanent leadership at St Francis and in October 2019 we appointed Mr Kewley as Headteacher who took up this post from January 2020. We have also recently appointed Mrs Foster as our permanent Deputy Head and Inclusion Manager and she will commence in this role from September 2020, both of these appointments have significantly strengthened our Senior Leadership Team at our school.
2. **Ofsted inspection** - as you know the Governors were disappointed with the Ofsted result, and feedback from this inspection remains a key focus for us in 2020-21, inspectors acknowledged that St Francis is moving in the right direction and this particularly referred to the last year. Governors contributed to preparations of this full inspection and met with the inspector on the day to answer questions and talk in detail about the school. Following the Ofsted report being published, we engaged directly with our parent/carer community through an open evening to respond directly to questions, queries or concerns and give assurance to the continued focus we have to ensure our school continues on an upward trajectory.
3. **Finance** – Governors approved capital funding which if approved, will be used to improve the Key Stage 2 classrooms and environment in line with the vision for St Francis.
4. **Link Governors** - have responsibility for specific areas of interest within the school. Each Link Governor has conducted a review including Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and Disability, Looked After children, Pupil Premium and Health and Safety.
5. **Progress and Attainment** – data for all children across the school, including vulnerable groups, has been analysed. Data focuses on reading, writing and maths. Analysis is completed at varying levels, including year groups, classes, pupil premium, high ability and boys/girls. The impact of this is that governors are aware of how children are performing; where there are issues, challenging questions can be asked to ensure that any identified problems are addressed in a timely manner. This ensures that the Governing Board know throughout the year how the school is progressing towards the school priorities and targets.
6. **Monitoring visits** - Governors have undertaken monitoring visits, including separate meetings with Mr Kewley to hear more about the curriculum review in school.

## Priorities for 2020-2021

1. Guided by the school improvement plan and improvements identified by Ofsted, in partnership with school leaders, we will work to ensure the schools readiness for the next full Ofsted Section 5 inspection that will take place sometime in 2022, placing priority on curriculum intent, implementation and impact and reading across Key Stage 1.
2. To continue the programme of developmental support and training for the Governing Board to ensure we are the best we can be for our school.
3. Each Governor to know their role and responsibilities within the Governing Board, and to be well-equipped to carry these out.
4. To recruit, welcome, and induct any new Governor to the team. To make every effort to ensure that the makeup of the Governing Board reflects the diverse and fundamental ethos of the school

5. To work collaboratively with parents/carers and within the local community. To be open and inviting of our new ways of working and to be up-to-date.
6. Due to the current Covid-19 situation the scheduled SIAMS Diocesan religious inspection has not been undertaken as planned during the current academic year, this will now take place in the new academic year. Therefore in preparation for this, the Governing Board will continue to ensure that the school is governed and led according to the vision, values and mission of this school.

I will endeavour to keep you updated with any significant communications as we go through the next academic year, but in the meantime, please rest assured that, as always the Governing Board has the interests of every child at its core.

Nicola Duffy

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Chair of Governors