



## St Winefride's Catholic Primary School Governors Impact Statement 2021 - 2022

### INTRODUCTION

Defined by the Department for Education, School Governing Boards have three core functions, which are as follows:

- Clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Head teacher to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

In addition to performing these core functions, we have an added responsibility to uphold the teaching of the Catholic faith at St Winefride's Catholic Primary School.

During the 2021-22 school year, the Governing Board exercised / committed its ongoing statutory responsibilities as explained in the following sections of this statement:

### 1. The Structure of the Governing Board

There were 7 meetings of the full Governing Board during the school year. This comprised of five regular meetings and two extraordinary meetings concerning the recruitment and appointment of a new Head teacher. In addition, the Governing Board operated the following regular committees:

- **Finance & Buildings committee.** There were three meetings of this committee during the year. One committee meeting was held each term, with an additional meeting each term to review the latest financial position between the Chair of Finance & Buildings, the Head teacher, Office Manager and Local Authority Finance.
- **Standards & Progress committee.** There were three meetings of this committee during the year, with one held in each term.
- **Staffing & Pay committee.** There were three meetings of this committee during the year, with one held in each term.
- **Marketing committee.** There were three meetings during the year, with one held in each term.
- **Policies committee.** There were three meetings during the year, with one held in each term.
- **Admissions committee.** There was one meeting held in the spring term.

In addition, the **Standing committee** was convened to oversee and manage the Head teacher recruitment process.





## 2. Core Governing Functions

### **ENSURING CLARITY OF VISION, ETHOS AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

The Governing Board established a clear strategic direction by reviewing and agreeing the School Development and Improvement Plans for the year. This covered:

- Quality of Education.
- School Values, Behaviour and Attitudes.
- Teaching of the Catholic faith in school.
- Curriculum Professional Development.
- Leadership and Management.

Progress within each section of the School Development and Improvement Plan was monitored by either a committee or the full Governing Board. Improvement plan monitoring was a standing agenda item for each committee assigned this responsibility.

### **HOLDING THE HEAD TEACHER TO ACCOUNT FOR THE EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF THE ORGANISATION**

The Head teacher of St Winefrides provided regular updates on progress made and the implementation of improvements. During the course of the year, governors noted and scrutinised the changes made including [review meetings] pupil Progress meetings between Head teacher and individual staff. These reviews resulted in developing pupil action plans and additional support for pupils where required.

### **SCRUTINY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING, SCHOOL CURRICULUM, PROGRESS AND ATTAINMENT**

One area of focus reviewed by the Standards and Progress committee was the disruption pupils may have experienced to their routines, structure and friendships following the pandemic. The governors noted the focus upon fundamental well-being and positive development, coupled with supporting children to recover and close the gap in attainment. The Standards & Progress committee received a full set of anonymised data reports on pupil progress and attainment for prior and current school year. Governors recognized that there was no external and officially validated data available following the national cancellation of exams and testing. The governors received progress and attainment reports for each year group and an assessment report for Early Years, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. The governors reviewed the improvements made in EYFS with increased collaboration and sharing with Little Gems.

The Head teacher shared predicted and actual outcomes for SATS in Key Stage One and Key Stage Two, and the interventions taken to support pupils prior to taking the tests.

The full Governing Board received regular reports from the Head teacher including school census data, attendance reports and safeguarding data.





## **HOLDING THE HEAD TEACHER TO ACCOUNT FOR THE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT OF STAFF**

The Staffing & Pay committee received termly reports which included staffing changes and sickness absence reporting and monitoring. The performance management process was reviewed and the Head teacher made recommendations for changes and improvements to setting of targets and their review. Governors were confident these enhancements would have a positive benefit for staff and pupils.

## **SCRUTINY OF BUILDINGS, HEALTH AND SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS**

The Finance & Buildings committee received reports on the Health and Safety inspection with the Local Authority and Head teacher and the corrective actions taken. Building capital projects within the school improvement plan were monitored against budget and completion on-time.

## **OVERSEEING THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE SCHOOL AND ENSURING MONEY IS WELL SPENT**

Each term, the Governing Board received reports from the Chair of Finance and Buildings committee explaining the current financial position. These reports were reviewed in detail by the Finance and Buildings committee prior to presentation to the governing board. Reports considered the Income and expenditure with variances from budget; the three-year strategic financial forecast; review of supplier contracts above £5,000; and approval for purchases exceeding £2,000.

The governors noted the school continues to have a sound financial position.

Governors received, scrutinised and approved the school's Financial Value Standard return to the local authority. The Finance committee prepared the document; answering all questions posed within the S.F.V.S. on the basis of evidence presented to the governors in school reports or link governor visits.

Governors particularly scrutinised how special purpose funding was being used, notably Pupil Premium and Sports Premium funding. Pupil Premium is additional school funding provided for disadvantaged children, to help close attainment gaps between these children and their peers. The Finance committee received termly reports showing Pupil Premium fund expenditure. The Standards and Progress committee also received a report summarizing the impact of Pupil Premium funding.

Sports Premium funding is a government-backed funding initiative aimed at helping primary schools across England improve their physical education and sport provision. The Finance committee received termly reports on how this funding was being used.

Governors also received reports and considered the following matters in connection with finance and governance:





1. General Data Protection Regulation report. This advised that the school is fully compliant with current data protection legislation and that there had been no data breaches during the last year.

2. Asset Register: Chair of Finance and Buildings committee reviewed the assets reported on the register.

### **APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR LEADERS**

During the school year, the Governing Board, supported by the Diocese of Shrewsbury Deputy Director of Education, undertook a rigorous selection process to appoint a permanent Head teacher, Mrs Davies, from March 2022.

The Governing Board, following a rigorous interview process, appointed Mrs Bannister as Acting Deputy Head teacher.

Dr Mark Branch, Chair of Governors

17<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

