

Governors Annual Statement – 2018

The focus of the Governing body, in this the first year of the school having an executive head teacher and a head of school has been to ensure that all pupils progress is maintained and well managed in a nurturing, stimulating, safe, Christian environment which embodies the St Lawrence way and our values. The governing body recognises that for this to happen, and for progress to be maintained and sustainable for the future, the pupils must be supported by a well-led, enthusiastic, highly motivated, professional and competent staff who all work together to ensure that pupils can be the best that they can be. The governing body also recognises that the learning environment fully supports this ethos.

The Governing body also appreciate the requirements for them to provide assurance to the parents and carers of our pupils that the leadership and management of the school is robust in how it supports these aims and how leadership and management has an effect on the safety, learning, progress and enjoyment is at the high standards we aspire to, and ensure that this is sustainable in the future.

To achieve these objectives, the governors continually evaluate the performance of the children and the staff through meetings, learning walks and by spending time in school throughout the year. To support this, the governors publish relevant information to all appropriate parties.

Data Analysis – data is made available to governors through termly meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by challenge and answer sessions with the head teachers and senior members of the school team. This data enables the governors to benchmark their data against similar schools in the Local Authority and Nationally to ensure the highest standard are achieved and the expectations are kept high.

Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all groups including those classed as vulnerable groups and those in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant.

Governor Visits - The governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the School Development plan and any specific issues raised during the academic year, including those where data analysis has indicated that further, more detailed understanding is required. Guidance in terms of the roles and responsibilities of statutory link governors are provided to relevant governors and regular training is undertaken in order to provide the governors with the skills that they need.

Financial Management – The governor's role in this area is to ensure that the schools budget is managed effectively and any improvements are effective and well targeted. The governors bring a wide variety of expertise to the school and this helps to ensure the school is moving forward, and is sustainable for the future.

Governor Meeting Attendance – Governor attendance at the full governing body meetings has been of a good level, with any absences having been fully explained and accepted and approved by the governing body. Going forward, there are plans to continue to review the numbers of governors and recruitment of new governors will be considered based upon future plans with regards to the leadership model of the school. However, all governors are committed to the school and fully support the concept of being the schools 'critical friend'.

Review -The governing body, the executive head, head of school and all members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop the school. This was supported in the 2018 OFSTED inspection, under their new framework for inspection, which upped the bar. This latest inspection graded St Lawrence School with an overall grade GOOD.

Further to this our SIAMS inspection showed the school as OUSTANDING. Once again, as a result of the hard work of the staff of the school, the school has been recognised for enhancing the Spiritual wellbeing of the pupils.

Special Interest Governors – These cover different areas and include Special Education Needs, Health and Safety, Pupil Premium, Safeguarding and Children in Care

In order to fulfil their strategic role and ensure that the school continues in the St Lawrence way, the governors have;

- Provided challenge and support to the Executive Head, Head of school and other Senior Leaders.
- Visited school to monitor the performance of pupils, for example by learning walks to look at specific aspects of the children's work including their books.
- Talked to pupils about their work and their targets and observed them in the classroom.
- Monitored and evaluated all available data, including Government Data Dashboard, Raise Online and internal reports from teachers to ensure that action is being taken on targets set.
- Sought the views of parents and pupils via questionnaires, evaluated the responses and ensured that appropriate follow-up actions are taken.
- Attended school events and ensured that parents are kept up to date with the changes in the schools leadership structure
- Ensured robust appraisal systems for teachers and addressed any under-performance.

In order to fulfil their statutory duties Governors have:

- Ensured that the school website is up-to-date and complies with regulations.
- Attend regular meetings with clear agendas to discuss, review and approve key compliance requirements, e.g. Child Protection Policy, and that Safeguarding responsibilities are met.

Achievements for 2017 - 2018 have been summarised as follows:

- Governors worked to ensure a sustainable financial model for the school exists
- Chair of Governors and Vice Chair of Governors supported in the recruitment of teaching staff in school
- Key Stage 2 SATs results 2018 show well above national attainment and progress in reading and writing with attainment and progress in line with national for mathematics.
- Key Stage 1 SATs results (teacher assessed) show attainment above national in reading and mathematics and slightly below in writing.
- Parent engagement is high
- PTA and support to school ethos to be good
- Overall the school to be a privilege to interact with.