



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND VA HIGH SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2017

The Governors have pleasure in presenting their annual governance statement. (Governing Board membership and guidance documentation references up-dated April 2017).

In preparing this statement, governors have taken into account the Department for Education's statutory guidance on "The Constitution of Governing Bodies of Maintained Schools" (revised October 2016), the Governor's Handbook (revised January 2017) and "A Competency Framework for Governance" (revised January 2017). The governing board fully supports the principles of transparency and accountability set out in those documents.

During the 2015-16 academic year, St. Michael's changed its status from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided. This has enabled the school to strengthen its ties with the Birmingham Diocese and to have more autonomy in the running of the school.

The Governing Board has three core strategic functions which are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction-

Governors are responsible for setting the school's strategic framework, identifying priorities for school improvement and monitoring progress towards these goals. They are also responsible for setting a school ethos of high expectations of behavior, progress and attainment of all students and of conduct of staff and governors.

2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff-

Governors must provide challenge to the school and hold the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to account, for improving the quality of teaching and learning and school performance. This is done through questioning and through regular monitoring and analysis of data on students' performance and progress. Governors hold the Headteacher to account for the performance management of teachers. (The Headteacher's performance management is conducted by governors).

3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent-

Governors regularly look at financial statements and ask questions to ensure that the school makes efficient use of its budget and provides best value for money.

Governing Board Membership 2017/2018

Governor Name	Type of Governor	Term of office	Committee involvement
Mr. Colin Nicholls (Chair)	Foundation	15 th October 2013 - 14 th October 2017	Finance / Facilities Management / Pay / HT appraisal / Admissions
Mrs. Julie Bodin (Vice Chair)	Foundation	1 st April 2016 – 31 st March 2020	Curriculum / Personnel / Pay / HT appraisal / Admissions
Mrs. Jayne Gray	Headteacher	Ex -Officio	All
Rev. Ian Shelton	Foundation	Ex-Officio 11 th July 2013 – 10 th July 2017	Personnel
Mr. Clive Priest	Foundation	1 st April 2016 – 31 st March 2020	Finance / Facilities Management / Personnel / Admissions
Mr. Ken Hadley	Foundation	11 th July 2013 – 10 th July 2017	Finance / Curriculum / Facilities Management
Mrs. Kerry Thornton	Foundation	3 rd November 2016 – 2 nd November 2020	Finance / Personnel / Pay / HT appraisal / Admissions
Mrs. Emma Brown	Foundation	20 th December 2016 – 19 th December 2020	Curriculum
Vacancy	Foundation		
Mr. David Kelly	Staff	17 th November 2016 – 16 th November 2020	Curriculum
Mrs. Elaine Dorsett	Parent	3 rd November 2016 – 2 nd November 2020	Finance
Mrs. Melanie Hill	Parent	3 rd November 2016 – 2 nd November 2020	Curriculum
Mr. Edward Williams	Parent	3 rd November 2016 – 2 nd November 2020	Facilities Management
Vacancy	Local Authority		

The Chair of Governors, Mr Colin Nicholls, can be contacted via the school. The clerking service to the Governors is now provided by the Local Authority SIPS Education.

Appointment Updates

- Mrs Emma Brown has been appointed as a Foundation Governor during this academic year
- Mr Dave Kelly has been appointed as Staff Governor during this academic year.
- Mr Edward Williams, Mrs Elaine Dorsett and Mrs Melanie Hill, were all appointed as Parent Governors during this academic year.
- Mr Rob Lloyd stepped down from his position as Support Staff Governor during this academic year.
- Mr Paul Hall stepped down from his position as LA governor during this academic year.
- Mr David Gill stepped down from his position as Parent Governor during this academic year.
- Mrs Verona Barnes stepped down from her position as Foundation Governor during this academic year.

Special Responsibility Governors

Governors have the following named responsibilities within the school:

- Child Protection/Safeguarding - Chair: Mr. Colin Nicholls
- Health & Safety Governor – Mr. Edward Williams
- SEND Governor – Mr. Ken Hadley
- Safer recruitment Governor – Mrs. Kerry Thornton

The Full Governing Board meets once per term (twice in the Autumn term) and the committees meet once per term. The committees are:

- Full Governing Board
- Finance Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- Facilities Management & Health and Safety Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Pay Committee
- Admissions Committee

Other committees when required are:

- Staffing Committee
- Pupil Discipline & Complaints Committee
- Appeals Committee
- Attendance and Behaviour
- Star Chamber

This year our school development plan has focused on five key areas:

- Outcomes for learners
- The quality of teaching, learning and assessment
- Personal development, behaviour and welfare
- The effectiveness of leadership and management
- Partnerships

During every meeting, the Governors focus upon aspects of this plan and monitor the progress against rigorous targets. We receive detailed reports from the Headteacher, the School Improvement Partner and other agencies.

The following are some of the ways in which the Governing Board impact on the strategic management of the school:

- **School Action Plan (SAP)** – Governors work co-operatively with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership in the writing and monitoring the School Action Plan. The School Action Plan sets aims for the school. The current SAP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SAP is set out with clear aims, the key tasks which will be completed in order to achieve these aims and the success criteria in order to measure outcomes. The SAP is monitored and reviewed termly, with an evaluation overview being completed and presented to governors within the Headteacher’s report.
- **Governor visits** – The governors are invited to visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SIP and of specific issues. Guidance in terms of the roles and responsibilities of statutory link governors are provided to relevant governors and regular training is available in order to up-skill our team.
- **Data analysis** – Data is made available to governors through termly meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions with the head teacher and members of the Senior Leadership Team. Thus, the governors are able to benchmark their data against similar schools, the Local Authority and schools nationally to ensure the school’s standards and expectations are high and are able to be closely examined. Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium funding.
- **Policies** – Governors review all relevant policies on an annual basis to ensure that all guidance is up to date. Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education mandatory policy list and the Local Authority recommended list.
- **Financial management** – Members of the governing board have been trained in school finance management. The impact of the governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective and continuous. The governors bring a wide variety of expertise to the school and this helps to ensure the school is moving forward.
- **Governor Meeting Attendance** – Governor attendance has been of a very good level, with any absences having been fully explained, accepted and approved by the governing board. There are no causes for concern at the level of commitment shown by any member of the governing board.

- **Review** – The governing board, the Headteacher and all members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop the school.

Governance Review Update

An independent Governance Review was carried out by SIPS Education Governor Services in 2016, which identified that the overall effectiveness of Governance in the School was strong.

Governors regularly visit the school and these visits are key in getting to know the School, its pupils and the staff in depth. Governor visits always have a specific area of focus and this year these have included:

Activities

- Science Fair exhibition
- Student Voice celebration
- Spotlight by Fusion Dance Academy
- Scrooge drama production

Training

All members of the Governing Board have undertaken training as part of their commitment to Continuous Professional Development. This year this has included courses on:

- Safeguarding
- PREVENT
- Safer recruitment training
- Data questioning skills
- Providing professional challenge
- Pupil exclusions and appeals
- Strategic direction

Our Chair of Governors, Mr Colin Nicholls, will be completing the Chair of Governors' Leadership Development Programme. The programme is run by the National College for Teaching and Leadership.

The Governing Board is immensely proud of the pupils and staff of the St Michael's Church of England High School, and will continue to support the Headteacher, staff and pupils to achieve the very best for every child.