

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of St Francis CE (Aided) Junior School 2022-23

The Governing Body of St Francis CE (Aided) Junior School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

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

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of St Francis CE (Aided) Junior School is made up of 12 governors: - 7 Foundation Governors (4 appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education and 3 by the Parochial Church Council (PCC), The Head Teacher and 1 other member of staff, 2 Parent Governors and 1 appointed by the Local Authority. There are also 2 Associate Governors. The full Governing Body meets once a term and there are 2 sub-committees: - Finance and Premises and Pupil Outcomes, which also meet each term. The first one is self-explanatory whilst the second one looks at all aspects of the education, progress, attainment and well-being of all our children. There are also sub-committees which meet as and when required i.e., Personnel, Head Teacher Performance Management, Pay Review, First Committee and Appeals

Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body

The 21-22 academic year started with some optimism that, again, the virus would not impact the children's education as much, but this did not last long, and further lockdowns were introduced, and the emphasis was put on remote learning. This entailed procuring laptops/tablets for children who did not have access to them at home. The efforts of all staff meant that most of our children were able to participate in remote learning. Mrs Lakey and the rest of our wonderful staff have continued to work tirelessly to ensure that the children remained engaged in their education but were also cared for and that any well-being problems were dealt with. Governors carry out monitoring visits each term and speak to the various subject leaders and reports of these meetings are completed. The Chair of Governors and Head meet on a regular basis and discuss all aspects affecting the running of the school including the well-being of all members of staff. The Chair also checks on how well the school carries out its responsibilities with regard to Safeguarding, Looked After Children, website and other peripheral matters.

Assessment of Impact	<p>There are several different sources where the impact of what the staff and governors are doing can be measured. An Education Development Partner (EDP) comes into school, each term, and this gives an independent assessment of the achievements and attainment of the children. The EDP is employed by Durham County Council and looks after a number of schools. An Adviser, employed by the Diocese of Durham, visits the school every term and, as well as looking at how effective the school is in educating the children in the subjects laid down by the Government, she also pays special attention to the religious side of the children's education. The Department for Education (DfE) publish data for both schools and parents: - Inspection Dashboard, School league tables (these can be seen on the website) and then there are the inspections carried out by OFSTED – these inspections provide rigorous testing of the school's judgement as to how well the school is doing. St Francis was inspected by OFSTED on 18th June 2019 and was found to be GOOD and the report from the Inspector was very favourable. This is all due to the hard work and professionalism of all the staff. Every five years the Church of England carries out their own inspection of the school which concentrates on how well the school educates the children by looking at how the religious aspect of the school is evident in all aspects of their life and teaching within the school. The inspection took place on the 22nd of June 2017 and the school was judged to be good in all aspects.</p>
Future plans for the Governing Body	<p>As the 22/23 school year starts there is still uncertainty about what the future holds but Covid 19 is still in the community and no one knows, yet, whether there will be another wave. Guidance, issued by the government, indicates that many of the restrictions, such as bubbles, will not be required but governors will continue to support any measures designed to protect staff and children. It is our hope that the education of our children will be able to return to normal and life is able to go back to what it was before March 2020.</p>
Contact Details	<p>The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school office.</p> <p>Details of the full Governing Body are on the school website.</p>