



**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of
St Francis Horndale CE Primary School
2025/26**

School Vision/Mission Statement

St Francis Horndale CE Primary School, a nurturing learning community. We have been educating the children of Newton Aycliffe since 1971, and transitioned from two schools; Horndale County Infant and Nursery School and St Francis CE (Aided) Junior School on 1st September 2025.

With a long and rich history, we are passionate about preparing pupils for the modern world. Each child is cherished, treated as an individual and given the opportunity to discover their gifts - what they enjoy and are good at. Our nurturing atmosphere fosters the adoption of our core Christian values: love, trust, and koinonia, enabling children to achieve their full potential as confident global citizens.

The Governing Body of St Francis Horndale CE Primary School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

- that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined
- that the headteacher performs their responsibilities for the educational performance of the school
- the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of St Francis Horndale CE Primary School is made up of 13 governors: - 1 Co-opted Governor, 9 Foundation Governors (4 appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education, 4 by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and one Ex-officio), the Head Teacher and 1 other member of staff, 2 Parent Governors and 1 appointed by the Local Authority. There is also an Associate Member with no voting rights.

The full Governing Body meets once a term and there are 2 sub-committees: - Finance and Premises and Curriculum and Standards, which also meet termly. There are also committees which meet as and when required Appeals, Pupil Discipline and Staffing.

The First/Pay Review Committee meet annually to carry out the annual review of staff salaries.

Key Issues faced

The Governing Body has been very busy during the 2024/25 academic year when they were instrumental in working in

<p>and addressed by the Governing Body</p>	<p>partnership with the Local Authority and Diocese to move forward with the opening of St Francis Horndale CE Primary School on 1 September 2025 following the decision to close Horndale County Infant School and extend the age range of St Francis CE (Aided) Junior School. The newly opened primary school is a beacon of hope and light within the community.</p> <p>Governors undertook a significant amount of work in relation to the logistics of the development of the primary school including bring together the staff from both schools into a primary team for the 2025/26 academic year.</p> <p>St Francis Horndale CE Primary School had their SIAMS inspection on 23 September 2025 after only 12 days as a primary school, Governors again played a significant role in making a positive difference in the school community and helping the children to have increased life chances as they learn and grow through letting their light shine bright.</p>
<p>Assessment of Impact</p>	<p>There are a number of different sources where the impact of what the staff and governors are doing can be measured. A School Leadership Advisor (SLA) from Durham County Council Education Development Service comes into school, several times during the academic year. This gives an independent assessment of the achievements and attainment of the children. School also receives a significant amount of support and challenge from the Joint Education Team at the Diocese.</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) publish data for the school and parents/carers: - Inspection Dashboard, School league tables (these can be seen on the website) and then there are the inspections carried out by OFSTED, as the age range of the primary school was extended and the school's URN was retained the primary school retained the previous junior school's good ofsted grading. The next Ofsted inspection will be the first for the recently opened primary school.</p> <p>Every five years the Church of England carries out a SIAMS inspection of the school, this is an inspection of Church of England and Methodist schools in the UK to evaluate the impact of the school's distinctively Christian vision on pupils and adults. It assesses how effectively the school's Christian vision enables all members of the school community to flourish. in all aspects of the life and teaching within the school. The inspection took place in September 2025 with a judgement of the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school, and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. Governors are very proud of the outcome.</p>
	<p>As the 25/26 academic year starts we are forging ahead as a</p>

Future plans for the Governing Body	primary school for the first time which is exciting.
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>