

Rainford C E Primary School Governing Body Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

October 2017

‘Learning and growing together, to achieve our best, in the love of God’

In accordance with the Government’s requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Rainford C E Primary School Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance arrangements

Our governing body consists of 14 people who are appointed in the following categories:

- 2 Staff governors, including the headteacher who is ex-officio
- 3 Foundation governors, including the vicar of All Saints Parish Church who is ex-officio
- 3 Parent governors
- 1 Local Authority governor
- 5 Co-opted governors

At the time of writing this report we have three Co Opted governor vacancies. These vacancies are expected to be filled in the autumn term 2017.

The Full Governing Body meets at least four times a year, and has formed three committees who meet at least once a term to consider different aspects of the school in detail. In addition we also have a committee which meets annually to consider staff pay & performance and an Appeals Committee which meets when necessary. The governing body is supported by an experienced clerk.

Individual governors closely monitor several areas including:

- Special Educational Needs, Gifted and Talented and Looked After Children,
- Equality,
- Health & Safety,
- Safeguarding,
- The Pupil Premium Grant.

Further details of the governing body can be viewed on the school website.

Attendance Record of Governors

Our governors have excellent attendance at meetings and in the year 2016/2017 all planned meetings were quorate.

Governor’s individual attendance is monitored by the chair of governors and the clerk to the governing body.

The work that we have done on our committees and in Full Governing Body meetings.

For most of this academic year the governing body, and its committees, has been preparing for Ofsted and SIAMS inspections. Part of this preparation involved reviewing all the school's policies & procedures to ensure that our school meets all current legal guidelines. We have now completed this task and will continue to review all of the school policies and procedures on a rolling programme. You can view some of our policies and procedures on the school website.

In addition the governing body wanted to ensure that a greater percentage of teaching was consistently good or outstanding and with this in mind, the governing body chose to invest in the Outstanding Teacher Initiative. Throughout the Autumn Term 2016 six of our teachers took part in this demanding course. At the end of the course over 80% of lessons delivered by these teachers showed a measurable improvement.

Safeguarding is a particular focus for the governing body and this year we have installed a new computerised entry system together with electronic gates on the car park to control entry to the school premises.

The sale of the land next door to the school which we had previously used as additional car parking could have caused a child safety issue for the school as there was little alternative public parking near to the school. However, we are grateful that the manager of the Derby Arms offered the use of their large car park as free parental parking before and after school. This created a safer, traffic free way to walk to school along the adjacent Linear Park. Negotiations with St Helen's Council Highway department have also meant that the school is now in a designated school zone with additional signage and a 20mph speed limit.

Due to the long term sickness of two members of staff this year we had to appoint temporary long term teachers in two classes. In addition we have also appointed permanent members of staff which include a part time clerical assistant, a part time class teacher who is a specialist leader of English and a new Deputy Headteacher who is a specialist leader of EYFS.

Last year one of the priorities on the Governor Improvement Plan was to improve relationships between all stakeholders and a BBQ and games session on the school field in September was the first event where all stakeholders came together. It was a popular event and a very positive start to the new school year.

To enable parents to be more involved in their child's education, Parental Year group meetings were arranged at the beginning of the autumn term. The focus of these meetings was to meet with their child's class and group teachers and also to inform parents of the curriculum their child would be taught and the academic expectations for a child of their age. Curriculum details and the further development of resources and links on the school website

have also supported our Parents as Partners initiative. Other developments which have supported this initiative include:

- Online reports direct from our in house Teacher Assessment Tool, Classroom Monitor, which show parents the objectives their child has met and their future targets.
- Class Dojos linked to parents emails/texts.
- Regular parental updates by text.

A Health Check for Parents and a Parent's Forum Group have further improved both Home/School Partnerships and parental involvement in school life and development.

In addition to regular monitoring and evaluation, governors receive regular invites to school events and are also invited to see the school in action at Governor Open Days. These invites play an important part in maintaining strong relationships with both staff and pupils.

Governors continue to produce annual parent, pupil and staff questionnaires which give governors valuable feedback which feeds into future development plans.

The governing body, and in particular the Standards & Quality (S&Q) Committee, has continued to monitor the curriculum and assessment processes and the delivery of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice.

Reading and writing were particular areas for development this year and were the focus of events such as Roald Dahl Birthday celebrations and World Book day. Changes in the school timetable enabled more guided reading and time for each class to read together at the end of the day.

The Christian Distinctive, Care and Support (CDCS) committee has responsibility for safeguarding and equality and have continued to carry out annual audits in each of these areas.

Members of this committee also led the review of our school Mission Statement and Christian Values.

The Finance and Resources Committee is responsible for overseeing how the school budget is spent and has a duty to ensure that all its pupils have access to a good education in premises that are appropriate and well maintained.

At the end of March 2017, despite cost increases in many areas, the governors were able to set a positive budget for 2017/18. We are pleased to report that at the current time we are in a sound position financially, however, predictions for 2018/19 and 2019/20 indicate that we may have to be even more prudent in the future.

The governing body acknowledges the financial support that FORCES, our parent fundraising group, provides. This year they have raised funds for reading books and replacement screens for each class.

The school has continued to receive both the Pupil Premium

	<p>Grant and PE and Sport Premium Funding. Analysis of assessment data and reports to the Governing Body from the Headteacher have ensured that these monies have had a positive effect on both Teaching and Learning and the quantity and quality of Sports provision in the school.</p> <p>We are also very pleased to report that the majority of parents continue to support our attendance policy and our whole school attendance continues to be higher than local and national averages.</p> <p>The governing body oversees all of the school's extended services. Our Preschool, Raindrops, continues to provide a service to the local community and a very positive start to children's education. The vast majority of the children who attend transfer and become pupils at our primary school.</p> <p>The school also runs Breakfast and After School Clubs which are well supported and continue to provide an extended school service to working parents.</p> <p>A Toddler group continues to meet in the school hall each Friday morning in term time and a sports company runs a holiday club during some of the school holidays. These services are organised by outside agencies. Lunchtime and after school activities continue to be popular and those run by members of staff continue to be free of charge.</p> <p>Throughout this academic year some of our foundation governors, together with a member of the Liverpool Diocese Education Team, led the process of reviewing the school's Mission Statement and Christian Values.</p> <p>Throughout this academic year a member of the Liverpool Diocese Education team supported governors in leading a comprehensive review of our School Mission Statement and Christian Values. The opinions of pupils, parents and staff were also considered by governors and in the Summer Term our new Mission Statement and Christian Values were confirmed.</p> <p><i>Part 1 minutes of governing body meetings are public documents and you can ask to see them by contacting the school office. They will shortly be available to view on the school website.</i></p>
<p>Church Links to School</p>	<p>As a voluntary controlled Church of England school, foundation governors, together with other governors, have a responsibility to preserve and develop the school's religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.</p> <p>Our close links with All Saints Parish Church are a crucial part of maintaining, delivering and developing our christian ethos and identity and ensuring that the school's Mission Statement, Christian Values and Aims are embedded in all aspects of school life. Our foundation governors include the vicar, Rev Janet Heighton, and members of All Saints Church. They regularly evaluate the content and delivery of both the RE curriculum and</p>

	<p>collective worship in school.</p> <p>Janet regularly leads Holy Communion Services in school towards the end of the school day so that parents can also attend if they wish. Older children are invited to prepare for the service of Confirmation with the help of church members.</p> <p>We continue to hold Harvest, Christmas and Easter services in All Saints Church and take part in the Church's Education Sunday and Walking Day services. Members of the local church community regularly lead collective worship in school and at the end of the spring term this year they led a day in school which focussed on the Easter story.</p>
<p>Additional Notes</p>	<p>Whilst this report focuses on the Governing Body's Work, it would be remiss of us not to highlight some of the exceptional achievements this year.</p> <p>We acknowledge that these results come as a result of hard work and determination from our pupils and parents, together with the dedication and skills of our teachers, leadership team and governors. The details below show some of the key educational achievements for the year 2016/17. Please note at the time of writing we have not received National results for EYFS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) the school results in all 7 areas of learning are well above the average of other St Helens schools. 73% of our pupils achieved a good level of development compared to an average of 66% in St Helens Schools. • At the end of Key Stage 1 ALL results at both 'expected standard' and 'greater depth within expected standard' were above last year's school results. The percentage of our pupils judged to be working at each level were also significantly above the average percentage in St Helens and National schools. • At the end of Key Stage 2 tests in Reading, Mathematics and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) the school results exceeded the average results in both St Helens and English schools at the 'expected level or above'. At 'greater depth' the school results exceeded the averages in St Helens schools in all three subject areas and exceeded the average of English School results in Mathematics and GPS and equalled the average results in Reading. <p>Teachers assessments in writing exceeded averages in both St Helens and English schools at 'expected standard or above' and at 'greater depth'.</p> <p>In December 2016 we won an Educate award for the second year running when we were awarded the 'Outstanding Teaching of Life Skills' award. The school was praised for its approach to well-being, the values of a</p>

	<p>learning mentor as well as giving the children all-round skills in money management, food preparation and dealing with worries.</p> <p>Finally, in June 2017 we were visited by an Ofsted Inspector who following a short inspection judged our school to be 'Good'. In his report to governors he expanded on this judgment by saying that with slight tweaking we could be outstanding.</p>
Future plans for governors	<p>As part of the Governing Body Annual Skills Audit and Self Review the governing body has once again decided to write a Governor Improvement Plan. The 2017/18 plan will focus on appointing governors to the vacant governor positions who hold the necessary skills to enable the governing body to fulfil its role. Governors will also continue to improve communication and relationships with all stakeholders and carry out a detailed review of the school's premises with St Helens Council to ensure that the school building and grounds are fit for purpose.</p>
How you can contact the Governing Body	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Hartley, via the school office. You can see a full list of governors and their photos on the school website.</p>