

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of St Benedict's Primary School
September 2023

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the St Benedict's Primary School Governing Board are:

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

Governance arrangements

The Governing Board of St Benedict's Primary School was re-constituted in 2014 and is now made up of 2 staff governors (including the Head Teacher), 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 2 Co-opted Governors. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Board and are people who, in the opinion of the governing board, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school: on our Governing Board three of the Co-opted governors are members of the Community and the remaining one is a member of staff.

The full Governing Board meets once each term, and we also have committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail e.g. Finance committee. We also have committees that meet, if required, to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters. Previously, we had a number of other committees, but now feel that it is better to meet as a full governing board more often as there is often overlap between meetings.
See p4 for a list of Governors.

Attendance record of governors

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings. Strict guidelines exist to ensure any issues that arise as a result of a governor who is not able to attend meeting regularly are addressed so that that it doesn't impact on the performance of the governing body.

The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing board

Pressures on the school budget have meant that the Governing body has been focused on ensuring that education is delivered to our children in an effective manner while ensuring that the school is able to deliver on its future objectives and commitments.

Details of the specific goals that the school has focused on can be found on the school website. The focus areas have been woven in to school curriculum so that every child sees the benefits of respecting everyone's rights

As a Governing Board, we adhere in particular to the following articles:

[Article 3](#)

"The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all our actions."

[Article 29](#)

"Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment."

The Governing Board has had another busy year, focusing on school improvement, strengthening areas in KS2.

Last year, The Curriculum & Standards Committee continued to spend time considering the expansion of the ambitious curriculum this year, the SEN provision in school and have discussed key data giving the results of pupil attainment and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is continuing to deliver a challenging curriculum that enables children to reach their full potential. We continue to be concerned about the excess school places in our local area and the impact that has on the school finances. Since becoming a primary school, our aim is to stabilise pupil numbers working closely with the LA.

Last year, The Buildings & ICT Committee looked at the maintenance and development of the school premises and ICT Infrastructure, and made decisions about how the school should use the budget. Due to the amount of work carried out in upgrading the school from infant to a primary there has been minimal work required on the infrastructure of the school and any required mandatory work has been completed as scheduled. At the end of the year, we discussed a number of jobs that require completion to improve health and safety. These need to be discussed further as financial constraints are a consideration.

Governors are continuing to focus on safeguarding and we have a Nominated Governor for Safeguarding (Mrs Cooper) who works with the Head Teacher and SENCO.

The Finance Committee will be looking at the 2023/2024 budget and beyond with a view ensuring that our pupils receive the outcomes they deserve. Like many schools nationally we are concerned about our school budget for the coming years. We will do whatever is required to ensure that our pupils are not adversely impacted. We are aware of the impending changes to the way schools are funded and will be working with our financial support team (DRB) to ensure our strategic financial plans are robust and rigorous to enable the school to operate effectively through the challenges ahead.

One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies; this year we have considered a number of key policies, including Behaviour, Safeguarding and Health and Safety.

	<p>Minutes of Governing Board and Committee meetings are public documents – you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>The Governing Board will be focusing on strategic objectives to ensure that children receive the best possible outcomes while at our school. We look forward to continuing the work with the school leadership team in integrating and leveraging the ongoing changes that are happening in the education sector so that the school receives the maximum benefits of those changes.</p> <p>We will maintain our focus on ensuring that budgets are spent to maximise the outcome for the children attending the school and that our children are meeting or exceeding national targets.</p>
<p>How you can contact the Governing Board</p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Vaughan, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; more information about what we do, on the Governors’ page of the school website.</p>

St Benedict's Primary School Governing Board

Governor	Category	Term of office expiry date
Emma nott	Head Teacher	N/A
Eve Cooper	Co-opted Governor	04/12/2023
Samantha Thompson	Staff Governor	08/07/2024
Andrea Vaughan	LA Governor	30/03/2026
Asib Hussain	Parent Governor	08/12/2025
Karen Colbeck	Co-opted Governor	30/03/2026
Shaista Kasar	Parent Governor	31/05/2027
Caitlyn Lloyd	Clerk	N/A