

Governance Statement and Strategy 2024-25

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.

Vision and values

The governing board is working with the Headteacher in supporting the school's vision and values:

We are enjoying our rights and fulfilling our dreams.

We are ambitious.

We take pride in our learning, make progress and achieve.

We are resilient.

We face challenges with perseverance and determination.

We are respectful.

We are inclusive, enjoy our rights and respect the rights of others.

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 3 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 half term, and we also have committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail e.g. pay committee. We also have committees that meet, if required, to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

Previously, we had other committees but now feel it is better to meet as a full governing board more often as there is often an overlap between meetings.

Attendance

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

Review of work completed in 2023-24

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

Details of the specific goals the school focused on are on the school website. The focus areas have been woven into school curriculum so that every child sees the benefits of respecting everyone's rights

As a Governing Board, we adhere 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. Amongst many decisions that we have made, the following achievements should be noted:

- New governance model used, providing us with greater insight into school life.
- Working with LA to make improvements to site security
- Working with the LA to successfully commission a SEND resource Base
- Working with the LA to overcome financial constraints, following the reduction of PAN in Reception in recent years.
- Alongside school leaders, commissioning a safeguarding audit, to ensure our procedures and safeguarding culture is of the highest standard.
- Alongside school leaders, completing an audit of specific curriculum areas, including the arts, maths and reading.
- Working with school leaders and Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, to establish the first Primary School of Music.

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

The board will be looking at the 2024/2025 budget and beyond with a view to 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 several key policies, including Behaviour, Safeguarding and Health and Safety.

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.

Governance Strategy 2024-25

<p>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.</p>		
<p>School Improvement Plan 5 key priorities:</p>		
1	Reading	Create a visible reading culture where every child enjoys reading a range of genres and authors.
2	English	Improve oracy through embedding the oracy framework.
3	Curriculum	Ensure all teachers are fully knowledgeable and confident in delivering the science and music curricula.
4	Personal Development	Use the 'healthy schools' framework, to improve our PD curriculum.
5	Behaviour and Attitudes	Improve attendance and behaviour of our most vulnerable pupils.
<p>Other school priorities:</p>		
<u>Safeguarding</u>		Develop a highly effective safeguarding culture: all stakeholders understand their responsibility; children feel and are safe.
<u>Teaching, learning and assessment</u>		Develop high-quality, consistent teaching, learning and assessment strategies.
<u>Inclusion</u>		Successfully open our Resource Base
<u>Leadership and management</u>		Develop staff-first strategy to support staff professional development, wellbeing and attendance.
<u>Digital Development</u>		Ensure digital development is in line with key priorities
<p>In line with SIP priorities, and our own internal audit of governance, our <u>governance priorities for 2024-25</u> are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holding the headteacher to account for educational standards, through Quality of Education reports and updates on SIP 2. Curriculum monitoring for Oracy, Healthy Schools/Rights Respecting and Science, with a focus on assessment, inclusion and EYFS. 3. Overseeing financial performance of the school, considering upcoming LA changes for finances, payroll, pensions and HR 4. Overseeing financial performance of the school, making sure money is well spent, considering the opening of our Resource Base and ensuring educational standards, behaviour and attendance improve for pupils with SEND. 5. Identifying areas for development within the governing board and putting in appropriate training as part of a strategic plan. 		