

Syresham St James CE Primary School

Annual Governance Statement 2018

This annual governance statement gives an overview of the work undertaken by the Governing Body in the last academic year.

The statement is organised around the three primary objectives of the Governing Body, which are setting the strategic direction of the school, holding the school to account, and ensuring the financial well-being of the school.

Strategic Direction

There have been four significant areas of activity around the strategic direction of the school;

- 1) Ofsted: In May 2017 Governors actively participated in the Ofsted Inspection, preparing evidence on the role of governance in our school and meeting with the Inspector to present our case. Governors were pleased and proud to contribute to the Good grade awarded to the school and the report included a statement that,
'The governing body is extremely well organised and informed as a result of good reports from the school's leaders and teachers and carefully focussed governor monitoring. The balance of challenge and support is just right, and clear action plans and evaluations ensure that the governing body is efficient in its work.'
- 2) Reconstitution: The Governing Body has reconstituted to better reflect the size and make-up of the school and its local community, and to ensure that efficient governance is sustainable for the future. New Governors have been recruited, although there is one vacancy remaining for a Foundation Governor.
- 3) Early Years: The Governing Body has continued to support the development of the school Nursery and Reception class, which now form a cohesive Early Years unit. The new building and outdoor learning area have been completed, joint working has been firmly established and marketing initiatives have been identified.
- 4) Exploration of the options around conversion to academy status: Governors have continued to keep up-to-date with local and national developments and agendas on academisation.

Holding the School to Account

The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure that the Headteacher and staff are adhering to the school's policies and delivering the best possible outcomes for all children.

Governors played an active part in developing the key priorities of the SIP and have monitored the progress made towards achieving the planned objectives throughout the year. Monitoring has been carried out through scrutiny of data and of books, by visiting the school to carry out learning walks, by meeting with staff, by taking part in visits by external education advisers and by listening to the pupil voice. Governors have statutory responsibilities in the key areas of Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Inclusion, Pupil Premium spending and Sports Premium spending, each of which are carried out through regular monitoring, challenge and reporting.

School policies are reviewed on a rolling programme throughout the year, and the Governing Body has statutory responsibility for some of these. We publish these policies on the website.

Financial Well-Being of the School

Through its Resources Committee, the Governing Body has regularly monitored the school budget and challenged decisions to ensure best value for money is being achieved in all areas of spending. Governors have also kept track of the impact of reductions in national funding for schools. Governors regularly review pupil numbers, which are the key to the school's income, and make decisions about marketing as required. The school finances remain strong in spite of challenging circumstances.