

St Francis Of Assisi Catholic Primary School 2022-2023



Annual Governance Statement for the Local Governing Board of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School July 2023	
In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School Local Governing Body are:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction. 2. Holding the Headteacher 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 Body of St Francis of Assisi Primary School was re-constituted in April 2016 when we joined the St John the Baptist Catholic Multi-Academy Trust. It is now known as the Local Governing Body. Members can be found on the Governors page of the school website. Details of all attendance can be found on the school website.

This year the school has returned to a normal rhythm and routine of school life after several years of disruption. As a LGB we have continued to be regularly impressed with the dedication of all the staff and commitment to delivering the highest quality of teaching and learning. The LGB are proud of what the young people have achieved in the last year.

The school development plan based on the strategic view from the Governor Board and influence of the MAT has been focused on the following areas. We have used this plan to question, explore and challenge the Headteacher on the outcomes. This process has been well documented in the various minutes of meetings held and school visits.

Aim 1. To enhance the distinctive Catholic nature of the schools and the Trust

The LGB has witness the continued strengthening of the distinctive Catholic nature of the school through the regular worship many of the Governors have attended. We have seen whole school involvement in liturgy and prayer and the continuation of the Junior Chaplaincy team. The school has been preparing from the new RED including the EYFS staff trained for Branch 1. RE is fully integrated in every aspect of everyday school life.

Aim 2. To ensure every child and young person receives the very best education so that they are empowered to develop, learn and achieve.

The school continued an adaptive teaching project focusing on “flexible grouping”. This was supported by Lesson Studies. Members of the LGB attended some of these Lesson Studies and found them to be incredibly empowering in driving the curriculum and learning.

The EYFS curriculum was reviewed in year with various documented action to build on the existing successes. A Reading implementation plan was a strong feature including staff coaching and visits from High School teachers to St Francis to expand knowledge and continuation of learning.

The LGB was pleased to see strong SAT results, KS1 SATs (Teacher Assessment) and 82% pass on phonics.

Aim 3. To ensure every child and young person receives the very best education so that they are empowered to develop, learn and achieve.

We have spent time reviewing and discussing the key data which give the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils.

Attendance was a key focus. As per the national trend, it was higher at the start of the year but throughout it improved further due to efforts of both staff and parents. Attendance finished the year higher than national and absenteeism lower than the national average, which the LGB recognise as a good outcome.

Clear behaviour plans are in place where required with the staff well trained in specialist strategies to support those children. These plans are clearly regularly reviewed.

Aim 4. To ensure every child and young person receives the very best education so that they are empowered to develop, learn and achieve.

We have looked at how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on outcomes with a detailed report evidencing the effect on the children. An Annual Report outlining how we spend our Pupil Premium allocation is available on the school website as is our Sports Premium report.

We have also looked at our “vulnerable groups” of children, SEN provision and Safeguarding. We have a nominated Governor for Safeguarding who reports to the governors about any safeguarding matters.

The school undertook several successful trips.

Aim 5. To develop and embed sustainable, high quality and robust leadership within the school and the Trust.

The school actively supports various trust wide projects and initiatives. The staff are actively encouraged to undertake further learning and leadership opportunities which we have seen repeatedly.

We share resources and expertise, for example, and we work together to focus on ensuring a smooth transition for children going from all the Catholic Primaries to Notre Dame High School. Our Chair meets Termly with Chairs from other schools in our MAT.

Safeguarding continues to always be robustly considered and reviewed by Governors and regular feedback occurs at LGB meetings, with the highest possible standards and processes being followed.

Various building repairs, maintenance and improvements have been undertaken on the fabric of the building and grounds, as well as future areas of concern being identified.

Aim 6. To strengthen engagement between our schools and our communities

Staff continue to support other schools in the Trust and Diocese including areas of SEND, Writing, coaching school leaders and adaptive teaching.

School has an active and well used foodbank. We have also built a strong partnership with a local care home including regular visits.

Aim 7. To achieve excellence in facilities, staffing, professional development and resourcing

With the wider background of school funding being a challenge. St Francis has been no exception to these pressures. The LGB has supported the school and overseen the financial performance to ensure that the school is working hard to deliver value for money but also ensuring we keep to financial commitments. This continues to be challenging but the LGB is reassured the school is making the right choices and has a clear plan to quickly return to surplus soon.

We have reviewed and agreed various policies, and these are all available on the school website.

Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents - please ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.

Future plans for the governors	Governors will focus on the continued pursuit of excellence to successfully create a culture of high expectations and aspirations despite the backdrop of the financial pressures.
How you can contact the governing body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback, and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, via the school office. You can find more information about the Local Governing Body on the Governors’ page of the school website.