

## St Francis Of Assisi Catholic Primary School 2023-2024



<b>Annual Governance Statement for the Local Governing Board of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School July 2024</b>	
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"> <li><b>1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction.</b></li> <li><b>2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.</b></li> <li><b>3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.</b></li> </ol>	
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.

The school continues to go from strength to strength. 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 hold the Headteacher to account 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 witnessed the continued strengthening of the distinctive Catholic nature of the school through many aspects including the regular worship, assemblies, displays and the child increasing responsibility for Prayer and Liturgy through the Junior chaplaincy team. The school continues to make great progress implementing the RED. We have seen RE is fully integrated in every aspect of everyday school life and increasing parental and family participation.

**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 continues to be fully immersed in an adaptive teaching project focusing on “flexible grouping”, this was support with lesson studies. Members of the LGB attended some of these Lesson Studies and found them to be invaluable in driving the curriculum and learning.

Lesson studies for flexible grouping allowed school to focus on the adaptive teaching of the bottom 20% to ensure good progress is being made. There was also a focus on History & Geography as well as a trust wide writing project. The school has made significant efforts to share the curriculum plans through knowledge organisers and sharing these plans through the website and weekly newsletters.

There was a strong focus on SEND ensuring good progress from starting points as well as increasing expertise in staff.

The LGB was pleased to see strong SAT results once again - well done.

**Aim 3. To develop and embed sustainable, high quality and robust leadership across the Trust and its schools**

We continue to promote development opportunities for leaders that support not only school, Trust and the wider school community. We have seen being achieved through enablement of the following roles - Deputy Director of Norwich Research School, Evidence Lead in Education, Teaching School ECF support, Seconded Diocesan Primary RE Lead and Section 48 Inspector, SCITT trainer, development of Assistant SENDCo role.

We have also undertaken several professional developments through Trust Triad for SEN, Adaptive teaching, transition project.

We have also advanced Governor leadership through Learning walks, training sessions and training support.

**Aim 4. To strengthen engagement between our schools and our communities**

We have actively collaborated in supporting other schools within the Trust and beyond, sharing expertise and resources.

We have increased our partnership with our communities we have seen this with our Opera work, frequent shared event and successful food bank. As well as working closely with Benhamin Foundation in supporting our families.

We are proud of the young people who have raised an incredible amount of money throughout the year for various good causes.

**Aim 5. 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.

We have undertaken regular surveys on pupils, parents and staff to inform the change team action plan for wellbeing. Part of this focus has been to ensure that teacher work within Directed Time Limits.

There has been a focus to reduce exclusions and a support put in place to help this including “The Nest”, “Sensory Space”, “The Reset Room”, staff trained in Emotional Coaching to name a few.

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

### General

Safeguarding continues to always be considered, included, reviewed and feedback back on to the LGB. With the highest possible standards and processes being followed.

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. We continue to provide strategic guidance and financial oversight.
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 Governor’s page of the school website.