

St James' CE Primary School



Governing Body Annual Statement

Autumn 2021

The core functions of the governing body are to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Hold the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of the staff.
- Oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure its money is well spent.
- Ensuring the voices of the stakeholders are heard.

In fulfilling its duty, the governing body highlights the following:

Governing Body	<p>The St James' Church of England Primary School Governing Body currently comprises of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1 Local Authority governor- 1 Ex-Officio foundation governor- 2 Parent governors- 2 Staff governors including the Headteacher- 2 London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS) governors- 1 Associate Member <p>However there are 3 vacancies, 1 Parochial Church Council vacancies and 2 Deanery Synod vacancies.</p> <p>The governing body currently has 8 meetings per annum as a full governing body and has moved away from committee meetings to ensure that all members of the governing body are equally focussed on the school development plan, budgetary oversight and key issues which should result in better outcomes for pupils, staff and parents. In 2020/21 one of these meetings was dedicated to governor training regarding the revised SRE curriculum requirements.</p> <p>In 2020/21 all meetings took place via Zoom.</p>
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	<p>Meeting dates and an annual register of attendance can be found on the school website.</p>
Staffing	<p>The governors believe that the quality of teaching staff and teaching is integral to the improvement of standards. St James' has good teachers and good teaching. This has been more difficult to evidence this year due to restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic. However, regular feedback has been given by the head teacher which in turn is evidenced by moderated data through termly progress meetings. In turn, the head teacher's performance is assessed by an outside advisor.</p> <p>The governing body normally receives the feedback and report from the annual school aspect review held by the local authority Schools Standards team and the allocated Schools Improvement advisor. Due to Covid this has not been able to happen this academic year but the governing body looks forward to the resumption of these reviews.</p> <p>There have been some changes to teaching staff members but the governors are pleased to report that for the start of the 2021-2022 academic year the school has a full complement of teachers.</p> <p>The governors are regularly reviewing the performance of teachers through Head teacher's reports and other tools, as listed above. The governing body makes a thorough examination of termly school data with head teacher feedback to be proactive in ensuring teaching and learning is of the highest quality.</p>
Achievement	<p>The governors are pleased to report that some of the teachers at the school are moderators for other schools and their experience is invaluable in ensuring the planned development of teaching is implemented. This is considered to be instrumental in enabling teachers to develop their expertise and fulfil their potential in accordance with the school vision. All teachers are encouraged to train for this role at the appropriate stage of their careers.</p>

	<p>Links with neighbouring schools have been established to allow moderation to ensure secure judgements have been made.</p> <p>The governing body will continue to work with the school to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deliver an effective catch up recovery curriculum that best secures progress outcomes for all children across the school. • Pupils have more opportunities to develop their mathematical reasoning skills. • To continue to use Pupil Premium Grant to close the gap in attainment and progress. • A new distinctive Christian vision for the school is implemented, promoted by leadership at all levels enabling pupils and adults to flourish. • Teaching standards are consistently monitored ensuring that high 'quality first' teaching and well placed interventions improve outcomes for our children. • A strong pupil voice is maintained. • The effectiveness of the Early Years Foundation Stage is consolidated in line with the revised EYFS curriculum.
Curriculum/Teaching	<p>Whilst the governing body is aware that our children's education has faced major disruptions since Spring 2019, this has not deterred the Governing Body from performing their function of ensuring the Head teacher is accountable for the educational performance of the school. The governors have been fully supportive of the school's efforts to consistently improve the remote education provision and sought to ensure this is available to all our children.</p> <p>Lessons were learnt from the first period of lockdown and the school invested in Google Classroom and, subsequently, other software programmes to try to ensure our pupils had access to the curriculum while the school was closed to all but looked-after children and the children of key workers. The governors are particularly grateful to the staff for their efforts at this time for their videos posted online to support home learning and their weekly phone calls to the children of their class which feedback told us was much appreciated.</p> <p>This, along with our commitment to deliver an effective catch-up recovery programme will enable our children to flourish academically as the Covid situation stabilises.</p> <p>The Governing Body of St James' CE Primary School is fully supportive of the school's vision and committed to working with the leadership team to create a happy and fulfilling learning</p>

	<p>environment for each and every child at the school. The governing body is proud of the efforts to ensure mental health and emotional well-being maintains a high profile at St James'. Although unable to take place this year, we look forward to resuming the annual governor meeting with the Pupil Leadership team to ensure the pupil voice is heard.</p>
<p>Community Outreach</p>	<p>The governing body continues to be committed to raising the profile and visibility of the school in the community. This has been impacted by the Covid pandemic this year. However the school has been involved in a number of initiatives with our wider community. An example of our fund raising activities has been the Christmas jumper event to raise money for Save the Children.</p> <p>The school was proactive in setting up a voucher system via Wonde to support our free school meals' families through the lockdown and holidays.</p> <p>As well as taking on extra Chromebooks from the DfE additional computer scheme, the school invested in increasing its stock of Chromebooks to ensure as many families as possible were given the best possible access to the remote education provision during the lockdown.</p> <p>The school and the governors continue to develop ideas and initiatives to strengthen links within and beyond the school community.</p>
<p>Future plans for 2021-2022</p>	<p>The focus for the strategic development of the school involves the following areas of development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development and implementation of the new distinctive Christian Vision for the school. The governing body, along with all the other stakeholders of the school, have had input into developing this vision to ensure it is uniquely applicable to St James'. Our school community is inspired by the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13) where we are encouraged to think about and understand that the smallest things have the greatest potential when they are provided with the best environment for growth. This is exactly what we all strive for at St James'; a learning environment where all our children can flourish and grow in their own unique way. • The governors and staff of St James' believe that for a school to flourish there must be a full commitment to equality. This needs to embrace diversity in all its forms. All of our school community, pupils, staff, parents, governors and visitors, regardless of race, culture, religion, gender and sexual orientation, socio-economic

	<p>background or disabilities have the right to feel valued. To support this the governors have developed a school equality policy. This needs to be monitored to ensure its effectiveness in allowing St James' to be an environment where all are valued and can flourish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor the impact of the Pupil Premium Funding and its role in closing the gap in attainment and progress. • The promotion of emotional wellbeing and mental health support for all the school's stakeholders. This includes developing the role of a well-being governor to ensure staff are supported. • To ensure that the school continues to run governed by financial prudence. The Schools Financial Value Standard documentation is submitted to the local authority for auditing annually. <p>Above all, the governors continue to strive, underpinned by Christian values, to make St James' a school where all members of the learning community; pupils, staff, parents and governors feel valued, can flourish and grow so that there are the very best outcomes for all.</p>
Contacting the Governing Body	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from all our stakeholders.</p> <p>We are actively seeking to fill our current vacancies on the Governing Body. Please contact us via the school office.</p> <p>The full list of governors is available on the school website.</p>