



St Ethelbert's RC Primary School

School Mission Statement:

*Love learning as friends; Care for our community as neighbours;
Share our faith in Jesus as disciples*

Governors' Statement and Impact Review 2021/2022

Introduction

In 2021/2022, the governors recognised the need to fill gaps in learning, following the impact of the pandemic. Unfortunately, restrictions were still in place for much of the Autumn term 2021, whilst many classes and some individual pupils and staff were adversely affected by continued infection, particularly at the beginning of the Spring term 2022. The Covid Risk Assessment, which was reviewed each term by governors, helped to safeguard our pupils and staff. Despite these challenges, governors continued to support leaders in the implementation of the full, broad and balanced curriculum. Governors were able to resume our visits to school, including carrying out our strategic monitoring role.

2021/2022 Governor Impact

- Following the lifting of most Covid restrictions, governors were able to meet face-to-face once more. We continued to receive the most up to date information about all aspects of the school's work, including pupil outcomes. As a result, we were able to hold senior leaders to account through asking probing questions. By having regular access to detailed information, we were also able to offer support to staff, who were continuing to work in challenging conditions. Governors continued to monitor the school's budget, ensuring value for money.
- One new foundation governor and a parent governor were welcomed to the Governing Board. Both received appropriate induction from the Headteacher, resulting in them being well-placed to carry out their duties.
- Governors continued our online training programme with EducareM – this focussed on finance, inclusion and community. This training reaffirmed that the Governing Board already has very effective practice. In addition, governors undertook other training to help develop our roles – for example, safeguarding; partnership.
- Governors successfully recruited new staff. In January 2022, a new Y1 teacher joined the team, as well as a new SENCo. In addition, five teaching assistants were recruited over the year, to provide support for targeted individuals and cohorts of children. In the Summer term, governors agreed to recruit three more teaching assistants for the

2022/2023 academic year, in order to meet the complex needs of some pupils, despite budget pressures.

- Governors continued to commit to providing all staff with training to continue their professional development. In 2021/2022, there was an increased focus on developing the knowledge and skills of subject leaders.
- The governors' Raising Achievement Group (RAG) continued to meet on a termly basis. This group analysed achievement data and then asked challenging questions of leaders, so that pupil progress was at the forefront of the school's work.
- The full, broad and balanced curriculum was reintroduced from the start of 2021/2022. Subject leaders were provided with time to work together on progression in their curriculum area and to share best practice. Following quality training, some areas, such as Art and Design Technology, improved significantly.
- Some governors resumed our monitoring role, following the lifting of Covid restrictions. They were well supported by the new Assistant Headteacher. In the 2021/2022 academic year, there was a particular focus on finding more about the impact of the wider curriculum, through pupil interviews and work scrutiny. We were able to speak with pupils of all abilities, including those with SEND and EAL. Governors produced our own reports, which were shared with staff so that further improvements could be made.
- Governors supported the headteacher in the continued implementation of the Covid Risk Assessment. This outlined the school's actions to keep the community safe, including: organisation of the school day; hygiene and enhanced cleaning measures; infection control; remote learning provision etc. This was reviewed each term.
- Governors agreed to release funds to deploy an additional teacher for two afternoons per week, in order to support targeted pupils in Y6. As a result, progress in reading, writing and maths was in the positive range, following KS2 SATs.
- Governors oversaw the implementation of the Relationships, Health and Sex Education programme in school, which merged elements of the Catholic scheme, '*Journey in Love*', with the SCARF PSHE scheme. Lessons and activities were of good quality and were delivered in June by the staff. No parents chose to withdraw their child from the Y6 sex education element. As a result of this work, our children increased their knowledge and understanding of the importance of positive relationships.
- With regards to the Catholic life of the school, new members of the GIFT Team were recruited, with one governor accompanying the children on the Chaplaincy Day at Mount St. Joseph. Our children behaved impeccably and contributed well. Pupils in Year 3 made their First Holy Communion. In May 2022, eight Y4 pupils were trained, becoming Caritas Ambassadors from September.
- Governors began to investigate the implications of academisation and the impact it might have on our school community. After a period of discernment, the governors decided to apply for academy status.
- Governors carried out a parental survey, to gather the views of our community; the findings helped to reassure governors that the school is on the right track.
- Governors recognise the commitment and dedication of all staff to the pupils and to each other, during what has been another very challenging year.

2022/2023 – Next Steps

Governors recognise that the negative impact of Covid continues to be an issue for many of our children. Despite the challenging economic times which schools face, we will continue to support leaders in implementing initiatives which will have a positive impact on learning, including the continued development of our curriculum and support of pupils.

During this academic year, governors will work with stakeholders, including the St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, in preparation for a possible conversion to academy status by October 2023. We will carry out due diligence and will continue to keep parents and staff informed of any developments.

November 2022