

Annual Statement of Governance for Acle St Edmund Church of England Primary School June 2020



In accordance with the Government's requirements for all governing boards, the core strategic functions of Acle St Edmund C of E Primary School Governing Board are :

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Board of Acle St. Edmund C of E Primary School consists of;

- The Headteacher
- One Local Authority Governor
- One Staff Governor
- Three Parent Governors
- Three Foundation Governors
- Six Co-opted Governors

There are currently two vacancies for co-opted governors.

Co-opted Governors are appointed by the Governing Board and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Board, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

The Full Governing board meets every half term. We also have sub-committees which meet half termly. These are the Strategy & Resources Committee, and The Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee.

We also have a small group of Governors who sit as The Pay & Personnel Committee, and another group responsible for Headteacher's Pay and Performance.

Governors also each have role based responsibilities within this structure, allowing them to attend to areas of the school which fall within that remit.

Details of the Governing Body and their roles is displayed on the school's website.

http://d6vsczyu1rky0.cloudfront.net/38206_b/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Governors-for-website-January-2020.pdf

Attendance Record of Governors

Governors have excellent attendance record, and all meetings have been quorate.

See the Governors page of the school website for details of Governors attendance at meetings this academic year.

http://d6vsczyu1rky0.cloudfront.net/38206_b/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Attendance-at-Governing-Body-meetings-2019-2020.pdf

The work that we have done this year...

It has been a year of change at Acle Primary School, during which the Governing Body has supported the headteacher, staff, pupils and wider school community, to maintain a stable environment for all.

Our Previous Chair of Governors Jane Bryant took the decision to leave the Governing Body in July 2019 having served as a Governor for a great many years .In the absence of a clear successor, Vice Chair Sophie Miller offered to fill the role of 'Acting Chair of Governors' until a point at which a new chair could be found.

During this academic year we have also recruited four new Governors to the board, each with skills that compliment those of the existing members.

During the autumn term Rosie Welch, Deputy Headteacher, was successfully appointed as Headteacher at Alington & Bergh Apton C of E VA Primary School, starting at her new school in January. Rosie had been fundamental in the creation of our 'Creative Curriculum' and leaves a fantastic legacy behind for which we are very grateful.

The Headteacher and the Governing Body jointly decided to delay recruitment of the new Deputy Headteacher until the spring term, allowing for a September 2020 start, and causing minimal disruption to the teacher and class structures already in place. In Rosie's absence the Staff and Governing Body have pulled together to support the Headteacher.

At the start of the spring term, Headteacher Paul Henery announced his retirement at the end of the 2020 summer term. Paul has been our head and part of the school community for 17 years, it was clear that finding someone to replace him would be a fundamental part of the Governing Body's role for this term.

Paul offered exceptional guidance and support to the Governing Body, as did both Paul Dunning and Teresa Osborne from the Diocese, during the recruitment process.

A working party of Governors was responsible for arranging the interview process, supported by the Diocese and June Sewell from The Local Authority.

We were happy to appoint Mrs Rebecca Clark as the Designated Headteacher, starting with us in September 2020. We look forward to a new phase for Acle Primary School under her leadership, and to establishing a successful working relationship with the Governing Body.

Having appointed the new Headteacher, the Governing body then had the responsibility of recruiting a Deputy Headteacher to work alongside from September 2020. The recruitment process began at the same time as the Covid 19 Pandemic and UK lockdown which added to the challenge.

A working party of Governors, again with the support of the Diocese, and the involvement of Mrs Clarke, conducted a virtual interview process, during which 5 candidates were asked to present, and underwent panel interview questioning. We were very happy to unanimously decide to appoint Mrs Ellie Tovell, our current Y2 Class teacher as the incoming Deputy Head from September 2020. We look forward to continuing to support Ellie in her new role.

During the summer term, the Governing Body supported the recruitment for our EYFS lead / Reception teacher. We were very happy to support the appointment of Fiona Scott. Fiona has been working part time in reception, and has in the past delivered excellent cover in all Key Stages.

The latter part of the Spring Term , and the Summer term have seen 'normal' school activities turned upside down , as schools nationwide remain closed to all pupils except for the children of Key Workers , due to the global pandemic.

The Governing Body have supported Mr Henery and the staff as they provide a safe and nurturing environment for the small number of children whose parents are unable to care for them at this unprecedented time. The commitment the Headteacher and staff have shown has been exemplary and the Governing body is very grateful for the degree of care provided.

The Governors have also supported the comprehensive provision for home learning set up by the school for children and families learning at home during the Covid 19 lockdown.

The Governing body have been instrumental in the approval of plans to re-open school to children in Y6, Y1 and Reception, from the start of June 2020. The Headteacher has undertaken rigorous risk assessment and shared the results of this for approval from Governors.

Throughout a very busy school year, 'normal' Governor activities and responsibilities have continued.

Policies have been reviewed as per the agreed framework.

The Strategy & Resources committee have looked at the budget in line with current county financial challenges and worked hard to ensure that best value for money has always been sought and is allocated effectively to ensure the children receive the best possible education. Pupil premium, SEN and Sports premium funding are closely monitored to ensure they are used to best effect for the children.

The Standards, Teaching and Learning committee have supported our English lead, in implementing different assessment strategies for reading. There is now more evidence around the school on book titles, authors. The accessibility for the whole class to read books of different genres has been improved.

Emma Taylor has been appointed the Sports Lead and there is more sport and positive physical interventions happening in school. The document stating evidence of spending Sports Premium funding is on the school website.

http://d6vsczyu1rky0.cloudfront.net/38206_b/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Evidencing-the-Impact-of-Primary-PE-and-Sport-Premium-Acle-Primary-1920-website.pdf

Governors have been kept well informed and supported the development of the school vision and motto 'Learn more, think more, be more'. Governors also understand and support 'The Parable of the Mustard Seed' as the basis for our Christian ethos and vision statement. We hope this is communicated well through our website.

<http://www.acleprimary.norfolk.sch.uk/about-our-school/ethos-values/>

Governors are vigilant about Safeguarding and we have a nominated governor for Safeguarding. Governors agreed the use of the CPOMS safeguarding software which ensures clearer safeguarding reporting and documentation.

Governor monitoring has not been as easy given the Covid 19 lockdown, however, Governors are exploring the possibilities of virtual monitoring.

Similarly, regular governor training has been undertaken and recorded on governor training records. Online training will also become increasingly important under lockdown conditions.

Minutes of Governing Body meetings are public documents – and are accessible on the Governors' page of the website or via the school office.

The Governing Body will continue to ensure that Christian values underpin all learning in the school which will nurture children to achieve infinitely more than we might ask, or they may dream; empowering them so they can flourish as confident citizens now and in the future.

Key actions taken by the Governors in relation to the School Development Plan:

Leadership and Management

- Agreement of the final wording of the School's aims and vision statement based on Christian values, in line with SIAMS expectations
- Monitoring the implementation of the new RE curriculum based on the new Norfolk Agree Syllabus
- Support for the Headteacher regarding effective risk assessment and communication with parents during the COVID crisis
- Monitor and review the progress of Pupil Premium children from their starting points

Quality of Education

- Monitor the whole school review of the current creative curriculum, ensuring it aligns with new Ofsted expectations
- Monitor the impact of subject leadership across the curriculum
- Monitor assessment arrangements which are being reviewed in the context of the new framework, taking account of teacher workload.
- Monitor new systems for evaluating interventions which meet the needs of children with SEND, under the direction of our new SENCO

Behaviour and attitudes / Personal Development

- To monitor the impact of our new "nurture style" base to support the learning and social and emotional development, mental health and wellbeing of vulnerable children in school.
- Agree key policies relating to this area of school life, including the SRE policy

Premises

- Oversight of improvements to the school building, including a new hall floor, the securement of £5000 for a new mud kitchen area (EYFS) and a sports equipment shed

Looking Forward...

- The Governing body will ensure the school is able to adapt to the changes in leadership, whilst maintaining the unique Christian character, vision and ethos that make our School special.
- The Governing Board will continue to be a 'critical friend' in offering challenge and support to the school leadership.
- The monitoring carried out by Governors is under constant review to ensure it is focussed on the requirements of the School Improvement and Development Plan (SIDP).
- Governors will monitor all areas of the curriculum and ensure the most effective use of resources to enhance learning and continue to provide the relevant statutory requirements in the best interests of pupils.
- Governors will support the school in readiness for and during the upcoming SIAMS inspection, previously planned for the 2020 Autumn
- Succession planning within the Governing Body is underway, with a clear plan for a permanent Chair of Governors.

Contacting the Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the acting Chair of Governors (Mrs Sophie Miller), via the school office. The full list of Governors, minutes of Governing Board meetings and more information about what we do are available on the Governors' page of the school website.

