

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of Our Lady's School, Aspull July 2024



Our Mission Statement is:

"Learning and loving together; we grow with Jesus"

*Our Mission is represented by this design. As with the statement itself, the logo was developed by all stakeholders, with the children in particular providing the symbolic ideas of **growth – the tree, love – the hearts** and **Christ – the Cross***

The Governing Board of Our Lady's School has a strong focus on its three-core strategic functions.

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

Governance Arrangements

The board consists of.

6 Foundation Governors appointed by the Bishop to represent the Diocese

1 Local council representative

2 Parent-elected governors.

1 staff representative.

The Headteacher.

There are 3 Full Governing Body meetings a year, with committee meetings occurring throughout the year.

All Governors have curriculum responsibility and have regular meetings with the respective leaders for those areas where teaching and learning in that subject are discussed.

Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body this year:

- **Revisiting the school Mission Statement.** This was approached on a training day when all staff attended and members of the Governing Board. It was led very professionally by Miss Wright and the outcome gave the school a clear route forward for enriching the exceptional provision already in place.
- **The development of Early Years in the school.** Governors have played a supportive role in discussion with the staff and have monitored the development of this area. Many thanks to Mrs. Rafferty and her team for the excellent steps forward to provide our youngest children with a stimulating learning environment.
- **Catholic Schools Inspectorate visit December 2023.** Governors attended meetings with the inspectors. We were very pleased with their findings, recognising the exceptional school we have here at Our Lady's. The full report is accessible on the school website.
- **Leadership.** The Governors have been heavily involved in recruiting new members of staff. Mr Horridge left us at the end of May. He had led our school amazingly well, developing the whole school community to provide the very best for our pupils at all time. As Governors, we thank him. But this left us with the task of finding a replacement. After a very vigorous interviewing process, we were very pleased to be able to recruit Mr. Cregan. We have every confidence he will build upon the strong foundations in place and continue to lead our school to ensure our children receive the best in Catholic education.

We then had to find a suitable deputy and were more than pleased to appoint Miss Wright to the post. We are confident that the school is being led by a very capable team.

We then had to find a full-time replacement teacher and, as Mrs. Raferty is going on maternity leave, a temporary teacher. Again, we were very pleased to be able to appoint two strong candidates into posts.

Discussions were then held with the new leadership team and Governors over placing of staff and we are very confident we have a very strong team in place for September.

- **The Quality of Education.** Regular meetings have been held with Governors and subject coordinators where standards in teaching and resources for that subject area are discussed. Governors look at childrens' workbooks and classroom displays and discuss progress for all children. They ask how children who need extra provision are supported in that subject. Governors then report to the full Governing board.
- **The personal development of our children.** Governors monitor the breadth of experiences being made available to all children. The enrichment experiences over the last 12 months have been phenomenal.
- **Standards.** The Standards Committee meets with the Senior Leadership team when all data has been finalised, usually in October. This is an intense meeting where leaders are held to account for the progress of all children. We compare our school with local and national data and questions are asked over progress.
- **Resources.** The Resources Committee meets at the end of the financial year. We are very grateful to Mr. Bithell who presents very detailed reports and benchmarks our data against similar schools, so we can see if we are spending wisely. Reports are also presented termly to full Governors on our financial situation throughout the year. One area that was researched

thoroughly this year by Mr. Bithell, was the acquisition of our school mini bus, a bonus for our school.

- **Safeguarding.** Safeguarding features on every Governor's meeting Our Safeguarding Governor regularly visits school to ensure all safeguarding guidance is being followed.

All members of the Governing Board are volunteers who have a strong commitment to ensuring the children of Our Lady's School receive the best possible Catholic education. As Chair, I would like to thank them for their time and commitment. Also, thanks must go to our tremendous staff. We look forward to another successful year under the new leadership.