



St Nicholas CE (VC)
First School

learning and believing, growing and achieving

St. Nicholas CE(VC)
First School, Codsall
Belvide Gardens
Codsall
Wolverhampton
WV8 1AN

Governor Impact Statement June 2019

In response to parent feedback in 2017-2018 where a number of parents indicated that they felt that they did not know about the work of the Governing Body and how to contact school governors, we now issue an annual report to parents as a Governing Body. As well as sharing how the school's governance structure works we hope that this report leaves parents better informed about the work of the governors throughout the 2018-2019 academic year.

As a founder member of Codsall Multi Academy Trust, St Nicholas CE First School sits within two tiers of governance structure. The overarching tier is known as the MAT Board and comprises of representation from all three schools (St Nicholas, Codsall Middle and Birches First) and has oversight for the strategic direction and development of all three schools within the MAT. These directors are all held accountable to adhering to, and upholding the [7 Principles of Public Life](#) (otherwise known as the Nolan Principles) and act in the best interests of the MAT community, as opposed to individual schools.

The MAT is led by a Chair, who is currently Mrs F Hayward (a Codsall Middle School governor with education premises experience), a CEO who is currently Mr P Bowers, (Head Teacher of Codsall Middle School) and supported by the Academy Business Manager Mr A Smith who is responsible for key financial functions across the MAT.

This Board has committees which meet regularly to feed into meetings, namely:

Finance/Audit and Risk Committee : to ensure financial probity, best value and compliance with the Academy Financial Handbook and ensure operational, reputational and financial risk is mitigated.

Education Improvement Committee: to plan for strategic educational developments and evaluate the performance of all MAT schools, to ensure a high quality educational journey from 3-13 years, EYFS - mid KS3.

Each MAT school has its own Local Governing Body which retains local delegated powers to plan for localised school developments and needs.

Local School Governors are responsible for the school meeting their own individual strategic objectives (in accordance with the School Improvement Plan), for holding the School Leadership Team to account and for overseeing the financial performance of the school. We meet as a full governing body three times a year as a minimum, once per term (more often when required) to monitor the effective use of resources and facilities to best benefit the pupils.

Our principle aim is to ensure that the school moves forward to achieve and maintain the very best outcomes for all children. In order to do this efficiently, appointed and co-opted governors, who already have breadth of experience, continuously undertake training opportunities to keep abreast with the current trends within the sector.

In their task, Governors are ably assisted by a school leadership team and dedicated staff. In addition to strategic planning for the school, the full governing body receives comprehensive reports with the purpose of not only having an overview of all aspects of school life, but to enhance the sustainable development of the school.

Governors undertake 'named Governor' responsibilities some of these include:

Safeguarding,
Pupil Premium,
British Values,
Special and Educational Needs,
Sports Premium,
Early Years Foundation Stage,
Looked After Child Designated Governor,
More Able,
English,
Mathematics,
Online Safety,
Worship
and RE.

During the last year, the impact of the governing body has facilitated and supported the school's development in the following areas:

- Improved homework policy and pupil enjoyment and engagement in homework activities.
- Investment in a Microsoft Surface Go 1 x per child in a year group to support a new school Computing curriculum.
- Writing development – through the support for external consultancy, purchasing of resources and evaluation of the work of the Literacy leader.
- Planning for staffing changes (outside of the school's control, maternity leave, relocation of the school Vicar etc) to minimise disruption to pupils learning.
- Maintenance of excellent Health and Safety principles, through a high level of risk management, support for the Health and Safety lead and a prioritisation of this agenda.
- Developments within the teaching of Mathematics through the work of the Maths Leader and the Maths Governor.
- A positive safeguarding audit report, which highlighted the work of the committed and involved Safeguarding governor as a strength of the school. The school is fully compliant and acknowledged as having areas of best practice.
- Increasing lunchtime and office staffing levels to reduce accidents and facilitate the high number of clubs the school has on offer within the week.

- Work with local schools to explore partnership opportunities that will best serve the pupils within St Nicholas and the wider area.
- Work with the PTFA to fund larger projects :new computers in school and the Trim Trail.
- A high quality online safety curriculum as a locality priority.
- Improving condition and acoustics of Year 4 classrooms.
- Continued trend of improved school attendance, which impacts on pupil's learning and social development. Working in partnership with Attend EDC to challenge persistent absenteeism and holidays in term time.
- The further development of the wider curriculum, through Forest School provision, performing arts and sports. A number of teams qualifying for County Finals having won District Finals and culminating in the achievement of the School Games Platinum Award.
- Commitment to the school's Eco-responsibilities and the achievement of the Eco-Schools award
- Grown the school's Nursery provision to offer maximum flexibility and attendance resulting in increased revenue and better on entry to Reception attainment.
- Continued improvement in attendance over a sustained period. The deployment of [Attend EDC](#) has also supported a reduction in persistent absenteeism and falsified illness when children are on holiday in term time.
- The development of a staff team who are not afraid to take risks, experiment and push the boundaries, going the extra mile to engage with and support the children.
- The commitment to maintain the Toddler group which brings new families to the school and welcomes them to the school community.
- The retention of past apprentices who show a high level of skill.
- Continued upkeep of buildings through regular monitoring and evaluation of Building Development Plan.
- Ensuring Value For Money is achieved by seeking new contracts for services.

The governing body is continually reviewing the work and processes of the school and seeking to always improve. Key priorities for the next year include:

- Maximising income generating opportunities in order to retain high staffing and support levels within classrooms, compared with many schools.
- Planned bids to further enhance the upkeep/modernisation of the building – [SEEF](#) to improve hall and school lighting and efficiency.
- The development of the Governor Run Nursery as opposed to the school Maintained Nursery provision of old, to refine the assessment and induction of Rising Three pupils.
- Streamlining Local Governing Body meetings, reducing duplication between MAT and LGB functions.
- Aligning MAT school curriculum to ensure progression and alleviate capacity for repetition. This will ensure that the curriculum is responsive to local need.

- Developing communication from the MAT Board to all Local Governing Bodies and to all school communities. Exploring and growing new networks and relationships within the community and beyond.
- Continuing to increase the monitoring role of governors at the chalk face, talking to children, looking at books, comparing standards within subjects.
- Extend the monitoring of Religious Education [RE] by governors to support the RE subject leader in her role and ensure that this key aspect of Christian distinctiveness is on a par with English and Mathematics.
- Engagement in national school improvement programmes Visible Learning, following the work of Professor John Hattie.
- Developing the newest teachers to school, harnessing talent, building upon existing skills and through the provision of high quality training opportunities
- Horizon scanning, to plan for inflations in staffing costs and pension contributions in order to maintain staffing levels and quality of education and wider provision for pupils.
- Developing our partnership with Gambia to ensure children truly understand the British Values and the school's distinctively Christian values of respect, care, thankfulness, perseverance and trust. Consideration of Christian Aid Quality Mark.

As Governors, we are proud to work with the staff, parents, children and wider community at St Nicholas. We are aware that success is maximised by the dedication of all involved and it is by working together that we get the best result. We take our role as Governors very seriously and are passionate about our school's future. As a community we owe it to children to provide a fulfilling educational experience that equips them well for the next stage in their lives.

Should anyone wish to find out more about the governing body or it's work, please do contact Chair of Governors, Mr Matt Jevons by email on governors@stnicholas.staffs.sch.uk, who will be happy to answer any questions or arrange to talk to you. We hope this document has helped you feel better informed about the valuable work of the governing body.