



OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Our Lady Star of the Sea RCVA Primary School 2016

School Vision/Mission Statement

*Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Primary School
offers distinctive education within a caring Christian community
where everyone can feel valued, confident and secure.*

We believe that each person is gifted, unique and loved by God.

*By working in partnership we aim to create a challenging, stimulating and effective
learning environment where Christ is our inspiration.*

The Governing Body of Our Lady Star of the Sea RCVA Primary School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

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

Governance arrangements

The full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also have number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail.

At Our Lady Star of the Sea we have the following subcommittees:

- **Finance, Premises and Grounds**, which focuses on ensuring that the school sets and uses its budget

appropriately, making sure that staffing levels meet the needs of the children, that the school premises are kept in good condition and the school grounds are developed to enhance the learning experiences of the children.

- **Children's, School & Community**, this committee focuses on promoting opportunities for children within a broad and balanced curriculum, which encourages healthy life styles, achievement both academic and sporting and ensures that children are well supported in RE and PHSCE. The committee also ensures that SEN provision is in place and vulnerable children are well supported and catered for. The committee monitors provision across the school, sets and agrees aspirational targets and ensures that reporting arrangements are met by the school.
- **Pay Review (first)**: Reflects on Pay and Performance and makes decisions under personnel procedures.
- **Personnel & General Purpose**: The committee is responsible for Teaching staff and permanent non-teaching staff appointments. It also ensures that the performance Management Policy is in place and considers the staffing structure of the school.
- **Appeals**: This committee meets if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

The Chair of Governors for 2015-16 is Mrs Carole Scott.

This last year has seen the following changes in the GB:

- Mrs S. Brown resigned from the GB March '16
- Ms K. Chapman joined the GB as a parent governor in March '16
- Miss C Farrell joined the GB in Nov.'16
- Fr. Ian Jackson resigned from the governors in May'16.
- Fr John Masshedar re-joined the Governing body in May '16 as a Foundation governor.

See accompanying table for further information regarding current governors and their responsibilities.

Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body

The Governing Body has had a particularly busy year – working closely with Miss Jones (Exec. Headteacher) and Senior management team.

In Summer 2015 interviews took place for a new teacher and Mrs J. Ramshaw was appointed. She has particular strengths in English and PE and enjoys planning exciting lessons around school visits. Mrs Ramshaw took up her post on the 1st September 2015.

The GB has spent time, reflecting on the school's provision for children identified under 'Pupil Premium' and has looked carefully at the progress and effectiveness of the 'Achievement for All' programme and School Improvement Plan for supporting children on FSM. There has been a strong emphasis on raising educational aspirations, access and achievement and Governors have closely monitored the impact of this on pupil performance.

Governors set and agree school targets and aspirations and monitor closely progress towards targets. They have a particular focus on Y1 Phonics screening, KS1 and KS2 SATs tests so that they can be sure that the school performance is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils.

Governors are also instrumental in ensuring that intervention strategies are in place to support and promote pupils' performance and that highly experienced teachers are sourced to deliver intervention work.

GB has played a significant role in ensuring that the school budget is well managed and effectively delegated to agreed priorities. This year the school renewed all computers in the school's computer suite to reflect the changes in new technology and the New Computer Curriculum.

Our Health and Safety Governor, Mr Gray, carries out termly checks of the premises with Mrs Watt, School Admin Manager.

Governors ensure that all areas relating to Health and Safety are effectively monitored and comply with regulations. This year the school has purchased a defibrillator and all staff have undergone defibrillator training.

Governors continue to focus on promoting a range of sports activities and competitive sports and to make good use of 'Sports Premium' funding.

Governors continue to focus on safeguarding and our Nominated Governor for Safeguarding is Mr D. Dunleavy, who

	<p>is well qualified to carry out this role. Governors oversee that all adults working with children in our school have been DBS checked.</p> <p>During the Summer term, the Finance Committee approved the 2016/17 budget plan for the school; we are pleased to report that the school is in a healthy position financially and offers value for money.</p> <p>Due to the healthy budget two additional part-time teachers are employed for morning sessions to implement KS1 and KS2 intervention work.</p> <p>One of the roles for the governing body is reviewing and agreeing school policies. This year the following policies have been reviewed and or introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Policy for Determination of Teacher’s Pay (update) ➤ Schools Attendance Management Policy and procedures ➤ Educational Visit Policy ➤ Acceptable Use Policy (ICT) ➤ Accessibility Plan <p>Further developing links with parents and carers: The School has introduced ‘<i>OurSchoolsApp</i>’ to add an additional link between school and home. This is proving to be very successful and feedback to the school is very positive.</p> <p>Minutes of GB and Committee meetings are public documents – you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes or send an e-mail to: p3507.admin@durhamlearning.net</p>
<p>Assessment of Impact</p>	<p>The school has performed particularly well this year. This is evidenced by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ofsted Inspection (10-11th February 2016) and was judged as being ‘good’ in all areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Effectiveness of leadership and management</i> ➤ <i>Quality of teaching, learning and assessment</i> ➤ <i>Outcomes for Pupils</i> ➤ <i>Early Years Provision</i> <p>The governors were delighted with the outcome of the inspection which concluded that the Governing Body were ‘good’ and took a <i>‘keen interest in the school’</i>. The report also stated, <i>‘they (governors) know the teachers, pupils and families and work hard to provide the headteacher and staff</i></p>

with the resources they need.'

'They (governors) have high expectations for the quality of teaching and have been diligent in their appointment of high-quality teaching staff.'

2. The school has gained the following awards this year:

- Basic Skills Quality Mark (3rd time) – June 2016.
- British Council's Intermediate Award – May 2016

3. Phonics Screening, KS1 and 2 SAT results indicate that the school is performing above the National Average in all areas except Writing at KS2.

School results for 2015-16:

Year 1

Phonics	85%	NA 77%
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KS1

Reading	82.4%	NA 74%
Writing	76.5%	NA 66%
Maths	70.6%	NA 73%

KS2

Reading	75.0%	NA 66%
Maths	75.0%	NA 75%
SPAG	87.5%	NA 72%
Writing	69.0%	NA 74%
RWM	56.2%	NA 53%

Future plans for the Governing Body

The GB of Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School was re-constituted in September 2015 and the following structure was implemented.

The re-constitution has the following character:

- (a) 8 foundation governors;
- (b) 2 parent governors;
- (c) 1 head teacher;
- (d) 1 staff governor;
- (e) 1 local authority governor;
- (f) 1 co-opted governors.

The GB is looking forward to a busy year which will see the new governing body structure operating effectively for the good of the school, staff, pupils and community alike.

The following training will be carried out in Autumn 2016:

- Safeguarding Level 1
- Academy Updates

Attendance record of governors	Governors attend our full Governing Body meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not 'quorate' (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).
Contact Details	<p>The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school office or send an e-mail to: P3507@durhamlearning.net</p> <p><i>Details of the full Governing Body are on the school website.</i></p> <p>Minutes of Governing Body meetings and more information about what we do can be obtained on request at the School Office.</p>