



# 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 2017

### 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 2016-17 is Mr D. Dunleavy

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

- Miss C Farrell joined the GB in Nov.'16
- Fr Seán Neylan joined the GB as parish priest
- Mrs Parish (Parent rep) joined the GB in July '17

*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.

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 intervention strategies 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 was redecorated during the Summer Holiday period (August 2017) – ensuring that the school environment is maintained at a high level.

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.

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

Governors continue to focus on safeguarding and our Nominated Governor for Safeguarding is Mr D. Dunleavy, who is well qualified to carry out this role. Governors oversee that all adults working with children in our school have been DBS checked.

During the Summer term (2017), the Finance Committee approved the 2017/18 budget plan for the school; we are pleased to report that the school is in a healthy position

	<p>financially and offers good value for money.</p> <p>Due to the healthy budget two additional part-time teachers were employed for morning sessions to implement KS1 (Autumn term '16) 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"> <li>➤ Appraisal Policy</li> <li>➤ Behaviour and Discipline Policy</li> <li>➤ Confidential Reporting Code</li> <li>➤ Data Protection – Policy for Schools</li> <li>➤ Equality Statement</li> <li>➤ Keeping Children Safe in School: Child Protection within Safeguarding</li> <li>➤ Policy for Determination of Teacher’s Pay (2016/17 update)</li> </ul> <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><b>Training attended by members of the Governing Body:</b></p> <p>The following training will be carried out in Autumn 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Safeguarding Level 1</li> <li>➤ Academy Briefings/Updates</li> </ul> <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: <a href="mailto:p3507.admin@durhamlearning.net">p3507.admin@durhamlearning.net</a></p>
<p><b>Assessment of Impact</b></p>	<p>The school has performed particularly well this year. This is evidenced by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The school has gained the following awards this year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Basic Skills Quality Mark (3<sup>rd</sup> time) – June 2016.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

2. Phonics Screening, KS1 and 2 SAT results:

**School results for 2016-17:**

**Phonics:**

Year 1	School	National (NA 2017)
Phonics	94.1%	81%

*Results show that Y1 children performed well above the National Average - with 94.1% of Year 1 children achieving the national Standard in Phonics.*

**Key Stage 1 (Year 2 SAT):**

KS1	School	National (NA 2016)
Reading	71.4%	74%
Writing	64%	65%
Maths	71.4%	73%

In 2017 KS1 pupils performed broadly in line with National statistics in all subjects.

**Key Stage 2 (Year 6 SAT):**

KS2	School	National (NA 2016)
Reading	100%	71%
Maths	88%	75%
SPAG	88%	77%
Writing	88%	76%
RWM	75%	61%

In 2017: KS2 pupils performed better than all pupils Nationally in all subject areas being assessed. ie the school data for KS2 is above the National Average in reading, writing, SPaG, and mathematics.

<p><b>Future plans for the Governing Body</b></p>	<p>The GB of Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School was re-constituted in September 2015 and the following structure was implemented.</p> <p>The re-constitution has the following character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 8 foundation governors;</li> <li>(b) 2 parent governors;</li> <li>(c) 1 head teacher;</li> <li>(d) 1 staff governor;</li> <li>(e) 1 local authority governor;</li> <li>(f) 1 co-opted governors.</li> </ul> <p>The GB requires 1 additional Foundation Governor to establish a full complement of governors. The Parish Priest and Headteacher will work together to ensure that the vacancy is filled.</p> <p>The GB is looking forward to a busy year. Areas of focus will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Staffing</li> <li>➤ Survey to ascertain parents and children’s views of school</li> <li>➤ Induction training for new governors</li> <li>➤ Governor visits to school</li> <li>➤ Policy reviews</li> </ul>
<p><b>Attendance record of governors</b></p>	<p>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).</p> <p>Governor attendance is generally good.</p> <p><i>Attendance for governors in 2016-17 was 75% (NB. Absence from meetings were mainly due to times of meetings clashing with courses and other governing body meetings).</i></p>
<p><b>Contact Details</b></p>	<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: <a href="mailto:P3507@durhamlearning.net">P3507@durhamlearning.net</a></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>

