

**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**for the Governing Body of St Benedict's Roman Catholic Primary School  
Walderslade, Kent**

Academic year ending July 2019

<b>Governance arrangements</b>	<p>Our Governing Body currently consists of 2 elected parent Governors, 2 staff Governors (one of which is the Head Teacher), 7 Foundations Governors (including the parish priest), and 1 co-opted Governor. The term of office remains 4 years for all Governors, with the possibility for re-election/re-appointment at the end of that time.</p>
<b>Attendance record of Governors</b>	<p>Governors have excellent attendance at termly 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). Individual Governors take responsibility for a specific part of the school's provision, such as Special Education Needs, Health and Safety, or Safeguarding. Governors regularly visit the school to have meetings with staff members, to take part in liturgies, assemblies and training, or to carry out monitoring visits. The school office keeps a record of all Governors' visits.</p>
<b>The work that we have done</b>	<p>This year the Governing Body has continued to work closely with staff in order to oversee excellence in all areas of the school's provision. This year for the first time we dissolved our committees, which in the past had been for Premises, Personnel, Curriculum and Finance. Instead, Full Governing Body meetings have increased from three a year to six a year, each meeting has a dedicated focus, and the Head Teacher and Senior Management Team (SMT) of the school call on the skills of individual members of the governing body for whatever it is they need support or advice on – be it aspects of the premises, personnel issues, curriculum development plans, or finance issues.</p> <p>Together with the SMT, Governors oversaw a new School Improvement Plan (SIP) with five key areas for development. Different Governors have been appointed to be the 'link' for different areas of the SIP. The purpose of the SIP is to recognize the many strengths of the school while focusing on areas which will contribute to improving our provision for the children. The first priority was improving progress across the school, which is an on-going priority.</p> <p>Governors are always particularly concerned about safeguarding, and the Head Teacher provides a termly report to the Governors about any safeguarding matters.</p> <p>Minutes of the Full Governing Body and Committee Meetings are public documents and are available to view from the Office.</p>
<b>Future plans for the Governors</b>	<p>Looking to the future, the Governing Body will continue to work with the Head teacher and SMT to drive rigorous improvement for St Benedict's School in the quality of both the teaching and the learning which takes place there.</p> <p>In May the school was visited by Ofsted for a short Section 8 inspection (one inspector for one day). Governors were delighted that Ofsted affirmed the school's 'Good' status. Ofsted suggested two ways we could improve our provision for the children. Governors will now work closely with the SMT to ensure those recommendations form a key part of our work plan going forwards.</p>
<b>How you can contact the Governing Body</b>	<p>Governors always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – if you wish to contact us, you can do so through the school office. You can see the full list of Governors and more information about what we do on the 'Governors' pages of the school website.</p>