

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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

July 2017

Governance arrangements	Our Governing Body currently consists of 2 elected parent governors, 2 staff governors (one of which is the Head Teacher), 6 Foundations Governors (including the parish priest) and 1 co-opted Governor. This year has been the first for our newly elected Chair of Governors, Gerry Sharratt. The term of office remains 4 years for all Governors, with the possibility for re-election/ re-appointment at the end of that time.
Attendance record of governors	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). All governors sit on at least one sub-committee, which also meet termly. The subcommittees are Premises, Personnel, Curriculum and Finance. Governors often visit the school to take part in liturgies, assemblies, training, or to carry out monitoring visits. A record is kept of all governors' visits.
The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body	<p>This year the governing body has continued to work closely with staff in order to oversee excellence in all areas of the curriculum. The Senior Management Team at the school has produced a new Strategic Development Plan (SDP) with six key areas for development over the next year; different Governors have been appointed to be the link for different areas of the SDP. The purpose of the SDP is to recognize the many strengths of the school while focusing on areas which will go towards maintaining our Outstanding Section 48 (Diocesan) inspection and achieving an Outstanding Section 5 (Ofsted) inspection.</p> <p>The Premises Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises. There is a governor with designated responsibilities for Health and Safety. He works closely with our caretaker to make sure our children stay safe and secure. Governors are always particularly concerned about safeguarding, and the Head Teacher provides a termly report to the governors about any safeguarding matters. This year the Premises Committee have been busy overseeing the new build, which will provide an enlarged office and reception area, and two new meeting rooms.</p>

	<p>The Personnel Committee looks after the staff of the school. They discuss how we can continue to develop our staff’s skills and specialisms, and what training staff and governors have attended. Each year they look at whether we need to recruit additional staff. This year the Personnel Committee, along with support from other Governors, have focused on the recruitment of a new Headteacher following the announced retirement of Mrs Salamonczyk, who has been Head at St benedict’s for 14 years.</p> <p>The Curriculum Committee looks after the children’s experience of the school in their lessons. As a Catholic school we are very mindful that Christ should be at the centre of the curriculum. The Curriculum Committee received reports from subject leaders about areas of teaching such as maths, literacy, science, design and technology and PE. We ask questions to clarify whether teachers have the right training and resources to deliver good or outstanding lessons. We ask whether there is anything that can be done to enrich the children’s learning through trips or experiences. At St Benedict’s we pride ourselves on a rounded, holistic curriculum which meets the needs of every unique child in our care.</p> <p>The Finance Committee oversees the school budget which is produced by the School’s bursar. School finances continue to be in excellent order through careful management of the budget. We report our finances against our set budget each term and can report that we are on budget at this stage. The Finance Committee is always mindful of any possible savings and areas to maximize efficiencies which would allow us to invest in the school and introduce new improvements for the children. The Governing Body is pleased that our projections for our three-year budget look very healthy, which in challenging economic conditions is an achievement.</p> <p>Minutes of the Full Governing Body and Committee Meetings are public documents and are available to view from the Office.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>Looking to the future, the Governing Body is continuing to work with other Catholic primary schools in Medway regarding a transition to academy status. We will ensure that we stay fully informed and consider all options available while keeping the best possible outcome for the children at our school at the forefront.</p>
<p>How you can contact the governing</p>	<p>We 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</p>

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'Governors' page of the school website.