

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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

July 2016

Governance arrangements	<p>Our Governing Body currently consists of 2 elected parent governors, 1 local authority governor, 2 staff governors (one of which is the Head Teacher), 6 Foundations governors (including the parish priest) and 1 co-opted governor. Our Chair of Governors recently announced his retirement so we will be electing a new Chair in October 2016. 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>
Attendance record of governors	<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). 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.</p>
The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body	<p>This year the School has focused on the points that were raised under our last Ofsted inspection as areas for improvement. The Governing Body is confident that these items have now been fully addressed. We have been working on a new strategic plan. The purpose of the strategic plan 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 safeguarding matters. This year the Premises Committee have been pursuing a new electric gate for the front entrance of the school and been in talks with the diocese about the possibility of expanding the school hall.</p> <p>The Personnel Committee looks after the staff of the school. They</p>

	<p>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.</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. Recent spending has been on upgrading our kitchen with new facilities.</p> <p>Minutes of the Full Governing Body 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 considering the School's position in regards to the current Government mandate that all schools become academies. 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 body</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 'Governors' page of the school website.</p>