

Annual Statement of Governance 2023/2024

This annual statement outlines the activities of the governing body over the past twelve months and how it has fulfilled its responsibilities. The Governing Body fulfils four key functions:

- a. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**
- b. Holding the Senior Leaders to account for the educational performance of the Academy and its pupils**
- c. Overseeing the financial performance of the Academy and making sure its money is well spent and for the benefit of its pupils**
- d. To uphold and preserve the distinctive ethos upon which the Academy was originally founded.**

The Local Governing Board of St Mary of Charity Primary School is committed and active and is responsible to The Aquila Multi Academic Trust Board. All governors work with the Headteacher and the school's Senior Leadership Team to ensure the effective management of the school. As we are a Church of England school, all Governors play an active role in ensuring that the school ethos is reflective of its distinctly Christian character. Governors are volunteers who contribute a range of skills from a variety of backgrounds, but all with the same aim of continually improving the school and ensuring the best possible education for its children.

Our Governors include representatives from the local community, parents of the school and school staff. Governors have a close relationship with the Headteacher and staff to provide a source of support and challenge.

Strategic Direction

Governors work with the Headteacher to formulate the vision for the school and the priorities for each school year. These are based on our Christian values, data from the SATs and other assessments together with any new initiatives that the school may be implementing.

Governors have specialist areas that they monitor and help to evaluate. These include: school standards especially in English and mathematics, quality of teaching and learning, SEN, Safeguarding, Health and Safety and the effectiveness of Pupil Premium spending. Governors visit the school to monitor these areas regularly and feedback their findings and questions to the full governing body. They also visit for school and church events such as Governors Prize Giving, the Church Services, sports day and the school production. At LGB meetings, governors ask relevant questions of the school leadership team to ensure that focus remains on strategic direction, vision and values and areas for improvement.

The governing body has agreed and reviewed a number of policies and procedures to be adopted by the School. They have ensured safeguarding policies and practices are rigorous through regular discussions and reviews in order to fulfil their statutory duties.

Financial Management

Governors are responsible for monitoring the school budget to ensure good financial management. Together with the Headteacher, and Aquila finance officer, they ensure that

money and resources are used effectively, legally and proactively to meet the needs of the children. Spending to fulfil the 5 year improvement plans are agreed at the start of each financial year and the budget statement is discussed at each meeting. A budget statement is scrutinised each term by the full governing body and issues/questions raised.

A panel of governors has overseen arrangements for relating teachers' pay to performance. Governors have discussed the budget and during the year were able to question how spending aligns with the budget, thus ensuring solvency and probity and ensuring financial resources were used effectively. They have monitored how the Pupil Premium grant and the Schools Sports funding have been used and the impact of these. The governing body has sanctioned additional spending in order to promote and support new initiatives arising throughout the year.

Overall performance

Governors monitor the quality of teaching and learning and progress of the children through regular data analysis. At each meeting, standards in both of these are shared with the governors by the Headteacher and discussed. Governors have first-hand knowledge of these areas from monitoring visits and action to meet needs is discussed and resources are agreed.

Governors have a good understanding of data from national ASP (Analysing School Performance) data. From this they can compare the school's performance against other schools and previous years. Their analysis enables decisions about school improvement priorities to be made and monitored over the year. This holds the Headteacher to account and enables them to have a strategic overview of the school's performance.

Governors have attended further training this year in various areas. They are able to carry out their statutory duties effectively and are proactive in ensuring they stay up to date.