



## **Governor Impact Statement 2020-2021**

### **Introduction from Chair**

I am coming to the end of my third term as chair of your governing board.

The role of the governing board has three core strategic functions:

1. Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding the Head teacher (Executive leader) to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

The challenges this year as a result of Covid 19 have continued to impact upon school life, but life is returning, albeit slowly to some degree of pre-pandemic normality. The health and safety of our pupils and staff is a priority for us all. Our Head Teacher has “led from the front” demonstrating commitment even when faced with her own health issues. I wish to thank our teachers and our administrative staff who have kept the wheels of our school moving. We as Governors have continued to monitor the Head Teacher’s leadership, via remote means for several months and now thankfully again in person. I feel that our resilience as an effective and cohesive Governing Board has been further strengthened, as we have needed to identify new ways of ensuring the school attains the educational performance required. We have some wonderful pupils at Horwich Parish, and I am always so impressed by the children’s manners and kindness when I am visiting school. I wish to thank parents for instilling such values in their children which serve to align to the values of our school and for their continued support and understanding as we move forward. Our recent Harvest festival in Church really served to demonstrate the kindness our parents and children have for others less fortunate than themselves as more food than ever before was donated to Urban Outreach.

There have been some changes to the governing body, with a long serving governor leaving the board due to other commitments and we are happy to welcome new Governors whose skills are valued.

I would like to thank Reverend Nicola who has supported us all in recent months and a big welcome from all the Governing Board to our two new teachers who have joined us this term and to all our new starters in reception class, we wish you well.

### **Here is a summary of the impact of your governing board during 2020 -2021:**

#### **Leading and developing the board:**

We are continuing to develop the skill set of our governors, who avail themselves of every training opportunity. This includes induction for new Governors, safeguarding updates and the roll out of the “Governor Passport” which is at the moment unique to our school, and which is already raising interest within other Governing Boards as an exemplar of good practice. As chair, I have successfully completed the “Safer recruitment” programme so that I can help to recruit the right type of teachers for our school whilst importantly helping to keep pupils safe.

## **The impact of the Governing Board during the Covid 19 pandemic:**

**Due to the face-to-face restraints imposed by the pandemic, we have strived to continue to make an impact and have compiled oral feedback or updates into a written report for Governors to read before our online meetings so as to circulate comments and questions in advance. Our meeting minutes highlight the that we have maintained adequate Board engagement with our Head Teacher and the school.**

**We focused on more operational tasks whilst school was closed and deferred any non-urgent matters so that they could be brought back when face to face business returned. We as a board have also had to focus our attention on pupil engagement, the health and wellbeing of pupils and staff and the safeguarding of vulnerable pupils. We have also needed to consider hygiene of persons and school premises once school re-opened.**

We value the presence of a Local Authority clerk at our meetings, who provides professional and legal advice, helping us to make rationale and thoughtful decisions.

**Presence in school and Monitoring:** Governors are back in school on a regular basis, with each Governor being assigned a specific area to focus on, this could be health and safety, school premises, the school "Central record" finance, school policies and their liaising with subject teachers and their support of special needs children. I and my deputy chair meet regularly with the Head Teacher to discuss key issues.

**Best practice** has been shared by governors, including use of the school's IT system and web site development. Capital projects have been agreed and implemented:

- New toilets throughout the school – these were much needed and will be so much better for our pupils.
- New lunch / dinner tables in the dining room – a vast improvement!
- New mulch spread in the nature play area.
- New flooring in the hall.

## **Future plans:**

- The installation of interactive white boards in classrooms is planned for October half term.
- Our pupil library is set to re-open very soon and is very much enjoyed by the children.
- A Governor "Away Day "is planned for January so we can prepare for forthcoming school inspections.
- SIAMS training (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) is planned for Governors.

Finally, we as a governing body wish to assure you that we will continue to work for the benefit of every child attending Horwich Parish Church C.E. School as we believe it is a school to be very proud of.

Susan M. Baines JP. Chair of Governors.

## **Appendix**

Governor synopsis

Committee meeting attendance