



## St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Murton)

### Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School 2015

#### School Vision/Mission Statement

*Our mission in St Joseph's School is to provide a place  
where our Catholic faith is lived and treasured;  
where every person is valued as an individual, in a warm, safe, Christian  
environment.*

*Where education is not only aimed at academic excellence, but is about the spiritual  
and moral development of the whole child.*

*Where we celebrate our achievements and foster positive interaction between home,  
school and parish.*

*We aim through these means to enable all members of  
St Joseph's School to achieve their full potential, in their  
academic and faith development, fostering love for God,  
self-discipline and mutual respect within the school  
community.*

The Governing Body of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

## Governance arrangements

The full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also have number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail.

At St. Joseph's Catholic we have the following subcommittees:

- **Finance, Premises and Grounds**, which focuses on ensuring that the school sets and uses its budget appropriately, making sure that staffing levels meet the needs of the children, that the school premises are kept in good condition and the school grounds are developed to enhance the learning experiences of the children.
- **Children's, School & Community**, this committee focuses on promoting opportunities for children within a broad and balanced curriculum, which encourages healthy life styles, achievement both academic and sporting and ensures that children are well supported in RE and PSHE. The committee also ensures that SEN provision is in place and vulnerable children are well supported and catered for. The committee monitors provision across the school, sets and agrees aspirational targets and ensures that reporting arrangements are met by the school.
- **Pay Review (first)**: Reflects on Pay and Performance and makes decisions under personnel procedures.
- **Personnel & General Purpose**: The committee is responsible for Teaching staff and permanent non-teaching staff appointments. It also ensures that the performance Management Policy is in place and considers the staffing structure of the school.
- **Appeals**: This committee meets if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

The Chair of Governors for 2014-15 is Mr M. Sawyers.

This last year the GB has seen a change in membership with the following governor retiring:

- Mr Michael Finan

Mr Finan had over 20 years commitment to the school as a governor with special interest in SEN and was Chair of the Finance committee. He was a valuable member of the Governing Body and his experience will be missed.

- Mrs Nadine Hudspeth

Mrs Hudspeth gave up her role as a parent governor when her child moved onto another school. Mrs Hudspeth made many links with community as part of her interest in marketing and community cohesion.

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|  | <p>Both governors showed great commitment to the school and the GB thanked them for their years of service and valuable contributions.</p> <p>The GB has discussed the reconstitution of the Governing Body and this will be implemented in Autumn 2015.</p> <p>The GB has appointed a new Foundation Governor – Mrs Bramley and a new parent governor Mrs Todd - both governors will take up their roles in Autumn 2015.</p> <p><i>See accompanying table for further information regarding current governors and their responsibilities.</i></p>   |
| <p><b>Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body</b></p> | <p>The Governing Body has had a particularly busy year – and has looked carefully at the composition of the GB. A new Instrument of Governance has been formulated and accepted and will be implemented in September '15.</p> <p>The GB has spent time, this year, reflecting on the school's provision for children identified under 'Pupil Premium' and has looked carefully at the implementation and effectiveness of the 'Achievement for All' programme and School Improvement Plan for supporting children on FSM. There has been a strong emphasis on raising educational aspirations, access and achievement and Governors have closely monitored the impact of this on pupil performance.</p> <p>Governors set and agree school targets and aspirations and closely monitor progress towards targets. They have a particular focus on Y1 Phonics screening, KS1 and KS2 SATs tests so that they can be sure that the school performance is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils.</p> <p>Governors are also instrumental in ensuring that intervention strategies are in place to support and promote SEN pupils performance.</p> <p>Our Health and Safety Governor, Miss Matterson, carries out termly checks of the premises with Miss Jones, Exec. Headteacher. A report is then passed onto the Governing Body. This year, the GB has ensured that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A new asbestos plan has been written</li> <li>➤ 5 year fixed electrical testing has been carried out</li> </ul> <p>Governors continue to focus on promoting a range of sports activities and competitive sports and to make good use of 'Sports Premium' funding.</p> |

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|   | <p>Governors continue to focus on safeguarding and our Nominated Governor for Safeguarding is Miss Matterson, who is well qualified to carry out this role. Governors oversee that all adults working with children in our school have been DBS checked.</p> <p>During the Summer term, the Finance Committee approved the 2015/16 budget plan for the school; we are pleased to report that the school is in a healthy position financially and offers value for money.</p> <p>Due to the healthy school budget and an increase in numbers of children in KS2 an additional teacher, Miss Bell, has been employed to teach Year 3 children.</p> <p>One of the roles for the governing body is reviewing and agreeing school policies. This year the following policies have been reviewed and or introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Safeguarding</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Medical</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Policy for Determination of Teacher's Pay (update)</i></li> <li>➤ <i>SEN Policy</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Computing Policy</i></li> <li>➤ <i>First Aid Policy</i></li> </ul> <p>Minutes of GB and Committee meetings are public documents – you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes or send an e-mail to: <a href="mailto:p3501.admin@durhamlearning.net">p3501.admin@durhamlearning.net</a></p> |
| <p><b>Assessment of Impact</b></p>                | <p>Governors have provided the school and Leadership with a considerable amount of support this year. It has set challenging targets and has ensured that data has been rigorously monitored.</p> <p>There have been significant improvements in pupil progress and teaching and learning in all Key Stages and staff are aware of the high expectations and respond well to this.</p>   |
| <p><b>Future plans for the Governing Body</b></p> | <p>The GB of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is planning to re-constitute in September 2015 and will have Governors with the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.</p>   |

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|  | <p>The re-constitution will have the following character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) <i>7 foundation governors;</i></li> <li>(b) <i>2 parent governors;</i></li> <li>(c) <i>1 head teacher;</i></li> <li>(d) <i>1 staff governor;</i></li> <li>(e) <i>1 local authority governor;</i></li> </ul> <p>The GB is looking forward to a busy year which will see the new governing body structure operating effectively for the good of the school, staff, pupils and community alike.</p> <p>In 2015-16 Governors will be reviewing the 'New Primary Curriculum' and the school's progress on 'Assessment without Levels'.</p> |
| <p><b>Attendance record of governors</b></p> | <p>Governors attend our 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).</p>   |
| <p><b>Contact Details</b></p>                | <p>The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school office or send an e-mail to: <a href="mailto:P3501@durhamlearning.net">P3501@durhamlearning.net</a></p> <p><i>Details of the full Governing Body are on the school website.</i></p> <p>Minutes of Governing Body meetings and more information about what we do can be obtained on request at the School Office.</p>  |