



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

### Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School 2016 - 2017

#### 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.

<p><b>Governance arrangements</b></p>	<p>The full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also have number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail.</p> <p>At St. Joseph’s Catholic we have the following subcommittees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Finance, Premises and Grounds</b>, 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.</li> <li>➤ <b>Children’s, School &amp; Community</b>, 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.</li> <li>➤ <b>Pay Review (first)</b>: Reflects on Pay and Performance and makes decisions under personnel procedures.</li> <li>➤ <b>Personnel &amp; General Purpose</b>: 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.</li> <li>➤ <b>Appeals</b>: This committee meets if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair of Governors for 2016-17 is Mr M. Sawyers and Vice Chair Ms E. Matterson.</p> <p>2016-17 the GB has seen a change in membership with the following being appointed as new governors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms S. Dowson (parent governor)</li> <li>➤ Mr S. Miller (foundation governor)</li> <li>➤ Mrs A. Naylor (formerly LA governor has been reappointed as a foundation governor)</li> <li>➤ Mrs V. McDowell (formerly parent governor has been reappointed as a foundation governor)</li> </ul> <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. There is one vacancy for an LA governor.</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</p>

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.

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.

Governors are also instrumental in ensuring that intervention strategies are in place to support and promote SEN pupils performance.

Our Health and Safety Governor, Miss Matterson, carries out regular visits of the school premises with Miss Jones, Exec. Headteacher. A report is then passed onto the Governing Body. This year, the GB has ensured that:

- The asbestos plan has been reviewed

Governors continue to focus on promoting a range of sports activities and competitive sports and to make good use of 'Sports Premium' funding. (See *Sports Premium info. on website.*)

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 were invited to attend level 1 Safeguarding training in October 2016.

Governors oversee that all adults working with children in our school have been DBS checked.

During the Summer term, the Finance Committee approved the 2017/18 budget plan for the school; we are pleased to report that the school is in a healthy position financially and offers value for money.

Due to the healthy school budget and an increase in numbers of children in KS2 an additional teacher, Mrs Reece, was employed for 1 term – to provide the opportunity for focused intervention work.

Governors have looked closely at projected figures for the school and have requested that Miss Jones (Exec. Headteacher) liaise with the Diocese and County Durham Pupil Placement team regarding additional space in the school. A meeting took place in October 2016 and July 2017 – a request for an additional classroom has been made.

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:

- *Keeping Children Safe in School: Safeguarding*
- *Policy for Determination of Teacher's Pay (update)*

- Equality Statement
- Confidential Reporting Code aka 'Whistle Blowing Policy'
- Appraisal Policy for Teaching Staff in Schools
- Positive Behaviour Management Policy (update)
- Data protection Policy
- Assessment Policy (update)
- Geography and History Policy

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: [p3501.admin@durhamlearning.net](mailto:p3501.admin@durhamlearning.net)

**Assessment of Impact**

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.

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.

**Results for 2017:**

**EYFS GLD (Good Level of Development):**

76% of pupils in St. Joseph's achieved GLD (NA 2016 69%)

**Y1 Phonics Screening:**

72% of pupils in Y1 in the academic year 2016-17 achieved the expected standard.

**Results for Year 2 children in academic year 2016-17:**

Subject	2017			
	Cohort	Number achieving expected standards	% School	% National (2016)
Reading (Exp)	23	20	87%	74%
Writing (Exp)	23	17	74%	65%
Maths (Exp)	23	19	83%	73%

**Key:** Exp is 'expected standard' for Y2 pupils

Results show that Y2 children in St. Joseph's performed above the National Average (2016 NA) in Reading, Writing and Maths.

**Results for Year 6 children in academic year 2016-17:**

Cohort Year	Number in Cohort	Expected standard+				Greater Depth				Exp. Std
		Re	Wr	Ma	GPS	Re	Wr	Ma	GPS	RWM
School 2016-17	14	86%	86%	93%	79%	43%	14%	7%	36%	86%
NA 2016-17	-	71%	76%	75%	77%	25%	18%	23%	31%	61%

Data shows that St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School achieved above the National Average in the number of children achieving the expected Standard in Reading, Writing, Grammar Punctuation and Spelling and Mathematics . The cohort was also above the NA in achieving Greater Depth in Reading and GPS.

The cohort also achieved well above the NA for children who achieved the standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Governors expect the school to address areas such as Mathematics and Writing were the percentage of pupils achieving 'greater depth' is less than the NA.

**Future plans for the Governing Body**

The GB of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School consists of :

- (a) 7 foundation governors;
- (b) 2 parent governors;
- (c) 1 head teacher;
- (d) 1 staff governor;
- (e) 1 local authority governor;

**Plan to:**

- Appoint an LA rep. to the governing body
- Continue to challenge the school leaders to ensure that pupils receive the best possible outcomes in all year groups
- Work closely with Exec. Headteacher, Diocese and Durham LA re extending the school to accommodate growing numbers
- Consider organisation of current classes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Appointment of staff to cover maternity leaves etc.</li> <li>➤ Organise appropriate governor training for new governors</li> <li>➤ Survey parents and children with regard to their views on the school.</li> </ul> <p>The GB is looking forward to a busy year which will see the new governors attending governor training sessions and ensuring all pupils are provided with the best possible education.</p> <p>Development of the school site to provide additional classroom space will also be high on the agenda.</p>
<p><b>Attendance record of governors</b></p>	<p>Governors have at least good attendance and our full Governing Body meetings have never been cancelled because of not being '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>