

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Kessingland Church of England Primary Academy (a school within the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust) September 2021.

In accordance with the government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of **Kessingland Church of England Primary Academy's** Governing Body are:

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;**
3. **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

Governance Arrangements

The governing body of **Kessingland Church of England Primary Academy** was founded on 1st September 2014, when the school converted from a Local Authority maintained school, to an academy under the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust.

The local governing body includes the headteacher, 6 trust appointed governors, 1 staff governor and 2 associate members. There are currently vacancies for 2 parent governors. Covid-19 permitting, recruitment will take place early in 2022. The Trust-appointed governors are appointed by the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust and are people who, in the opinion of the Trust and the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

The majority of our governors have backgrounds within education and bring a wealth of local and community experience. The chair of governors is a former governor from London and has worked with within the Council's, Children and Young People's Service for over 20 years.

Each governor is assigned a curriculum subject and meets regularly with the subject lead. Throughout the pandemic many of these were undertaken virtually. A written summary of the curriculum meetings are presented to the full governing body.

The full governing body meets once each half term and also has four committees in which to consider different aspects of the school in detail.

Kessingland Church of England Primary Academy has a Resources Committee, which focuses on finance and premises; a Curriculum and Standards Committee, which focuses on academic achievement and attainment; an Ethos Committee, which provides a mechanism to monitor and develop activity and focus, in line with the school's Christian vision and a Strategic and HR Committee, which focuses on personnel matters, including pay and performance and other strategic matters. There is also a Headteacher's Performance

Review Committee and other committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline etc.

The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body

The governing body has had another busy year, focusing on school improvement, and has spent considerable time assessing and considering the Academy's progress, with regards to this year's transition from remote learning and bubbles, to full school attendance. Outside the constraint of Covid-19, governors have carried out monitoring visits which include learning walks, lesson observations and attending curriculum development meetings with subject leaders. Parents' evenings have had to be undertaken virtually this term, but it is hoped that 2022 parents' evenings will be held at the school, with governors attending.

A governor panel has been involved in headteacher performance management. This includes target setting and review meetings. The Strategic and HR Committee reviewed staffing in the light of school development and within financial constraints.

The Curriculum and Standards Committee has monitored the development of the evolving curriculum and has spent a great deal of time continuing to support the School's Change Plans. Governors have also supported and validated the school self-evaluation. All governors have access to key data (pupil achievement and progress) at both governing body and committee level, so that they can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. The headteacher consistently maintains pupil tracking systems and provides the governing body with regular updates on the progress of key groups of children. This means governors are able to challenge the performance of some groups, where it may not meet targets.

Governors have information on the starting points of children at the start of the academic year and are therefore able to keep track of overall performance. Governors also challenge the headteacher on how the Pupil Premium and PE and Sports Premium funds are being used by the school and what impact this has had on outcomes. The chair of governors is the link governor for both and reports on a termly basis to the full governing body.

The Resources Committee has had a difficult year as the academy has had to work with a challenging budget. Academies, unlike Local Authority maintained schools, receive a monthly income from the EFA and must keep a balanced bank account.

The vice chair is the nominated governor for safeguarding. Considerable attention has been given to understanding the school's safeguarding procedures. All governors have undertaken comprehensive training and have read and understood the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (1st September 2021) document.

One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies and over the academic year, the governing body considers a number of policies. The majority of the statutory policies are provided by DNEAT but the governing body has taken time to review the model policies provided and has been instrumental in the review process.

Throughout the challenging last year, the school community has been working hard to build on the success of the school's 'good' status and focus on moving towards being judged as outstanding.

Minutes of the full governing body and committee meetings are public documents – members of the public can also ask at the school office if they would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.