

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 2023.

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, 2 parent governors, 1 staff governor and 1 associate member. 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 for Suffolk County Council's, Children and Young People's Service for over 20 years. Each governor is assigned a curriculum subject and meets termly with the subject lead. A written summary of the curriculum meetings are presented to the full Local Governing Body (LGB).

The LGB meet each half term and their work includes reviewing the school's finance and premises issues, as well as monitoring the pupils' achievement and attainment. The governors also have a working group who meet termly to monitor and develop activities in respect to the school's Christian Vision.

A Strategic and HR Committee 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.

Work that the committees & governing body has focused on.

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 responding to the impact of Covid. Governors have carried out monitoring visits, which included learning walks, obtaining pupil voice and attending curriculum development meetings with subject leaders. Parent events continue and governors will be attending these partnership opportunities in the future.

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 LGB 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), 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 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 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 2023) document. One of the roles for the governors is to develop, review and agree school policies and over the academic year. The majority of the statutory policies are provided by DNEAT but the governing body has still taken the time to review and challenge Trust policies provided.

Governors are mindful that we continue to be in financially challenging times and the academy has had to work with a challenging budget. Throughout the challenges faced each year, the school community has been working hard to build on the success of the school's 'good' status from Ofsted 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.

Chair of Governors