

## **Ellesmere Port Catholic High School**

### **Governor Impact Statement 2017-18**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the Ellesmere Port Catholic High School 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.**

#### **Our values are to:**

- Treat each other with respect
- Work hard at all times
- Take pride in our school community
- Encourage confidence, empathy, spiritual awareness and integrity in every person
- For students to explore the whole range of their talents and to aspire to, and achieve success intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally.

#### **Our Vision is for:**

- A strong Catholic Ethos
- To ensure every child is known
- High expectations of everyone
- Excellent leadership at all levels
- Exemplary behaviour and personal standards
- To be at the heart of the community
- Promote British values

#### **Governance Arrangements**

The Governing Body was re-constituted in 2015 and is made up of 8 foundation governors, 2 elected parent governors and 2 staff governors (including the Headteacher), 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 2 Co-opted governors. We also have Associate Governors. Co-opted and Associate governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

The full Governing Body meets once each term. Governors are also involved with committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. Each of these committees is chaired by a governor. Governors have excellent attendance at both Full Governing Body

and specific committee meetings. The attendance of individual governors can be seen on the school's website.

*Other governor committees:*

- Steering Committee meets to plan the questions for the governing body and its committees, and for departmental subject liaison visits and to ensure governor consideration of key priorities dovetails with the relevant timescales in the school improvement plan.
- Leadership and Management (focusses on finance, premises and some personnel matters)
- School Community (focusses on pastoral matters, attendance and behaviour including safeguarding)
- Achievement, Teaching and Learning (focusses on achievement teaching and learning as well as information about various innovations, new strategies, developments and schemes being introduced)
- Performance Management Pay Panel
- Admissions

We also have committees which meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

**Governor developments areas.** Governing development areas, aligned with the Schools' Development Plan, are split across governor committees so that Governors can support, challenge and monitor the school to achieve good and outstanding outcomes for students. Governors also support and challenge the school through two Topic meetings during the academic year.

**Data Breakfast Meetings.** Governors are invited to Breakfast data meetings where the progress of all the pupils studying that subject are discussed. These are held termly. Governors can see the evidence of the data re-enforcing the achievement and learning strategies put in place.

**Subject Liaison Meetings.** Governors hold their Subject Liaison Meeting on a termly basis with Subject Leaders. These meetings have helped to foster closer working relationships between governors, staff and pupils as well as giving governors an increased understanding of the curriculum area to which they are attached, encourage staff and provide the opportunity to celebrate success.

**Governor Topic Meetings.** Topic meetings give Governors an insight to what is happening in the whole school and not just their subject areas. Guest speakers from the SLT are invited to give presentations on strategies put in place and what have been or expected outcomes. These meetings also provide the opportunity for Governors to attend CPD sessions, this October we will receive Safeguarding Training.

Input from the senior leadership team at committee meetings, subject liaison meetings and attendance at data breakfast meetings ensure that governors are more informed and able to ask searching questions on pupil's individual achievement and progress, reassuring Governors that every child is known and their needs are met.

### **Policy review**

Governors reviewed all the school's policies required to meet statutory requirements via the Committee structure. They also reviewed the school's own policies. Governors question and receive feedback on how policies are consistently applied across the school.

### **Human Resources**

Governors have been involved in shortlisting for both teaching and support staff recruitment and have also sat on the interview panels. Governors also sat on the Performance Pay Panel and Headteacher's Review meeting.

### **Pupil progress and data**

The governors have attended termly data breakfast meetings for their subject liaison areas. This year they have also received training on Progress 8.

Governors have convened on a number of occasions for student disciplinary panels for pupils to support pastoral staff and have also set on permanent exclusion meetings panels.

### **Governor Training**

Governors continue to be pro-active in attending governor training and training is a standard item on full governing body meetings

### **Key issues considered and addressed by the Full Governing Body in 2017-18**

- Oracy
- Assessment for Learning
- Literacy throughout the school
- Close the achievement gap for SEND & Pupil Premium students and P8 score
- Improve the quality of teaching to be consistently good or better to accelerate these students' progress in all subjects, especially in Mathematics and English
- To apply school systems for managing behaviour consistently well across the school
- To ensure that all departments are consistent in the application of school policies
- To continue to develop the Inclusion and Diversity team
- Teaching and learning strategies
- Effectively manage the budget in a difficult financial climate
- Revision of general Admissions policy

## **Achievement, Teaching and Learning Committee**

The Governors are kept informed by the SLT (Senior Leadership Team), on achievement and learning strategies put in place and carried out in school.

Governor/teacher liaison meetings have always posed questions on achievement, the quality of teaching and learning and assessment and development plans for the future. Responses to these questions were shared by all the governors in a summary at the Full Governing Body meeting and if necessary questions have been raised and discussion taken place. This does enable all governors to have insight into all the departments in school.

There were two Topic meetings where governors were informed on aspects of achievement teaching and learning (for example development plans to increase the achievement of higher ability students and strategies which were in place to develop oracy throughout the school. This provides information which has an impact on governors' understanding of what is takes place in school.

The ATL committee meet every term. Standing items are Pupil Premium, SEND and Sixth form. There is input from staff on areas of the school's development, progress, plans and innovations (for example evidence of the impact resulting from work already done supporting leaders, impact of QA on the quality of teaching and learning in the school, impact of marking and feedback, plans to develop oracy throughout the school.

These meetings provide opportunities for governors to ask questions. Discussion can take place which helps governors feel confident as to knowing what is happening in school and being well informed. This supports governors in being able to support the school in its aim to be a place where all students feel valued, happy and safe and so able to fulfil their full academic potential and grow into well balanced and successful adults.

## **Admissions Committee**

The Admissions Committee meets each term. This year the School's Admissions policies was updated in line with advice from the Diocese of Shrewsbury. They went out to consultation and were approved. The Committee discussed in-year admissions and referrals to the Fair Access Panel. Working with member of school support staff responsibility for coordinating admissions with the local authority, the committee looked at secondary year 7 admissions to the school.

## **Leadership and Management Committee**

**Finance** – Throughout this academic financial year the L&M Committee have closely monitored the 2017/18 Financial Budget, initially holding two meetings every term. It has now been agreed with the LA Financial Team, because we have a more positive budget we can return to holding a meeting just once a term, subject to review if there are any changes

to budget priorities. It will still remain high priority to scrutinise every budget line for possible savings.

**Health & Safety** – The School annual H&S Review was carried out in June this year. The Business Manager and Site Manager have again put in an incredible amount of additional work prior to the review taking place so that we can maintain and improve H&S Standards throughout the school. We should receive the final report in the autumn which will be presented to Governors at the FGB.

**Catering** - The catering service was relaunched last September 2017, feedback from student voice has been positive, also they have come back with some suggestions which have been received positively by the new manager who has been in post since the spring term. Developments are still happening with the menu's an emphasis on "Healthy Eating" some really good ideas for September 2018.

### **School Community Committee**

The Committee met termly and the appropriate members of the senior leadership team with responsibility for the committee's areas attended. The Assistant Headteacher for Student Personal Development, Welfare and Safety The Committee has monitored and challenged the senior leadership team in the following areas.

- Behaviour management to include attendance, punctuality, detentions, disciplinary meetings and exclusions. In particular they have looked at strategies to help students align back to achievement.
- Safeguarding, child protection and children in care
- Student voice including School Council
- Staff wellbeing. The Deputy Head presented to the committee on staff welfare and developments.
- Policy development and review

This committee also links with the Parent Teacher Association.

### **How to contact the governing body**

The Governing Body are happy to receive suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. Please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr Coucill, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors, their attendance at meetings and more information about what we do on the school's website. Staff will ensure that any correspondence is forwarded promptly to the relevant member/s.