



ST. WILFRID'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Principal: Miss C Huddleston BA PGCE MBA

Duckworth Street, Blackburn, Lancashire BB2 2JR
Telephone: (01254 604000), Fax: (01254) 604004, *Email: enquiries@saintwilfrids.co.uk*
Website: www.saintwilfrids.co.uk

Governor Impact Statement 2016/17

Working in partnership with the Principal and her team, the Governing Body has had a significant impact on developing the Academy.

St Wilfrid's Church of England Academy sees education as an integral part of the mission of the Church to proclaim God as Creator, Christ as Redeemer and the Holy Spirit as Inspirer of all that is good in human living. The main purpose of the Academy is to provide an excellent education, both academic and social, in a Christian context, to enable its students to grow up to take their full part as citizens of this world and the next.

To give you an idea of what the Governing Body are doing, please find listed a summary of key activities, events, and systems highlighting the impact of the Governing Body on Academy Improvement and the place of the Academy in its local community.

Although by no means exhaustive, it does illustrate how the Governing Body are contributing to their three core strategic functions as outlined in the 'Governors Handbook January 2017' 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; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the Academy and making sure its money is well spent.

Effective governance is based on six key features:

- Strategic leadership that sets and champions vision, ethos and strategy
- Accountability that drives up educational standards and financial performance
- People with the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity
- Structures that reinforce clearly defined roles and responsibilities
- Compliance with statutory and contractual requirements
- Evaluation to monitor and improve the quality and impact of governance.

The Governing Body contains people with a broad portfolio of expertise, which supports the Academy in achieving its objectives, which is demonstrated following a recent skills audit and the desired skills being set out when advertising parent governor vacancies.

The Governing Body approved the reorganisation of the Governing Body Committees, which resulted in the merging of the Student Welfare and the Standards and Effectiveness Committee.

Support has been provided from the Chair of Governors to a newly appointed Chair at a Cidari Academy.

Academy Improvement Plan

The Academy Improvement Plan is monitored by the Governing Body by receiving reports from the Principal on a termly basis.

The Governors have overseen improvement to the Academy facilities, with the allocation of finances to a new build project. The new build has been sized to allow a full year group to be seated in exam conditions, providing a much needed exam venue for the Academy.

Governors have undertaken finance training for Academies, secondary curriculum training, child protection and development training. The Chair has also attended the Chairs Development Programme.

A programme of Academy improvements are planned for during the summer holidays. This includes the reworking of classrooms. These changes will create additional, much needed, large spaces for Maths and English along with a more suitable space for SEN. There will also be a reworking of space within the D&T department.

Teacher Recruitment and Principal Performance

Governors are involved in the safe recruitment and selection of staff and use the appointment process to ensure that high quality staff are appointed who share the Academy's vision and aims and continually strive for improvement. They are also responsible, with the support of an external adviser, for establishing the Principal's performance objectives and undertaking regular reviews of progress throughout the academic year.

Policies

Governors review policies regularly, to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date. As policies are updated. Governors ensure that they are owned by individuals who are then accountable to the Governing Body for ensuring they are complied with in practice and are fit for purpose.

Financial Management

The Governors have worked with Academy staff to achieve a clear and informative financial planning, budgeting, reporting and monitoring process which helps in deciding what the Academy can afford to do in terms of improving facilities and learning opportunities for the students. The impact of the Governor's role is in ensuring that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective, providing value for money.

Governors have been particularly active in monitoring vulnerable groups and have conducted an external review of the way that Pupil Premium (PP) money is spent.

Training has been provided to Governors on the Academies Financial Handbook, reinforcing the specific duties that are to be undertaken by the Governing Body.

Visiting the Academy

Governors make regular visits to the Academy, in particular to their specific linked curriculum area. As part of the continuous improvement process of Governance, the links are currently under review.

The Academy Student Council provide an annual presentation to the Governing Body with the work that they have undertaken during the year.

Being Part of the Community

As St Wilfrid's has been celebrating its 50th year, there has been a series of events held within the Academy.

In September, each student was given the opportunity to write a prayer, or note of thanks to their own faith leader. The leaves were hung on to the trees that line the student quad. As the autumn arrived and the leaves fell, those prayers remained on the tree as a symbol of the longstanding impact these leaders have had on our lives.

Students have been involved with initiatives within the local community; raising money for the Foodbank and partaking in the 'A very British tea party' inviting the local elderly to enjoy afternoon tea in association with Age UK.

The Academy has worked with local Primary Schools and the Academy Choir has performed at various events throughout the year, including the annual Christmas event at the Cathedral, where Senior Choir members joined as an ensemble for the evening with the former head of Music. The Nine Lessons were read by a mixture of current and former students and staff. The festive carols always sound majestic as they ring through every corner of the impressive sanctuary.