

Cardinal Newman Governance Statement

2014-15 School Year

In all types of schools, governing bodies should have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- a. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- b. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and**
- c. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

These functions are reflected in regulations for maintained schools that came into force in September 2013 and in the criteria Ofsted inspectors use to judge the effectiveness of governance in both maintained schools and academies.

The governors of the school have spent the past school year supporting the Headteacher and the teachers in their determination to ensure that every child at the school makes at least expected progress and more if possible. RE has been a strong focus for the school and governors, along with continuing monitoring by governors of key areas for school development.

We began the school year with a working governing body meeting at which all the work for the year is agreed, monitoring roles are agreed linked to the School Improvement Plan and the officers of the committees and Board are elected.

Last year Governors attended individual training sessions as well as in-house sessions to improve their knowledge of the school and its work. Governors were also very pleased to be able to attend the Partners in Learning evening, Parents evenings, plays and other school events.

There have been 14 working committee meetings with supplementary pay, admissions and performance management meetings as well. Attendance at meetings has been consistently good.

Governors have carried out the following 'task and finish' working groups this school year aimed at improving the resources in the school;

ICT working group - completed

Staffing working group - completed

Green Project Working group – ongoing

There have been changes to the members of the governing body, with three new governors appointed to the Governing Board; 1 Local Authority, and two parent governors. The governors also carried out their statutory duty to re-constitute the Board and this process has been agreed by both the local authority and the Diocese. It is important to the school that there are no vacancies as each member brings both skills and support to enable the work of the governing body to be carried out. The current list of governors is published on the school website.

The Learning and Development committee has been able to have very useful presentations by staff regarding Writing and Humanities as well as regular updates on school data provided by the school, supported by questioning the data on a termly basis. RE continues

as an important focus both because we are a Catholic school but also because we are due to have our RE inspection in the near future.

The Resources committee supported by the School Business Manager, has been able to ensure that the expenditure in the school is within budget, as well as once more setting a balanced budget for 2015-16, and that we have been able to support the ongoing maintenance work and projects required to keep our buildings and school fit for purpose. Resources have also been allocated to support the Head in her School Improvement Plan. Work continues to improve our income to the Governor's building and maintenance fund*, the fund provided by voluntary contributions from parents, to enable us to pay the 10% required to qualify for upgrading and necessary improvement work, supported by funding from the Diocese. The Governors made the decision to take the 'Wrap around Care' for the children under the auspices of the school and this continued seamlessly due to the hard work of the Headteacher and senior staff. School uniform has become an in-house service as well.

The governing body congratulated staff and children on all their achievements and the successful year that all have had. The governors are proud of the school and all that has been achieved this past school year and look forward to this next school year with confidence and determination to support the Head and teachers of a very good school.

** Attached parental form for setting up contributions to the governors building and maintenance fund*