



## **Governance Statement**

The purpose of governance is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance.

The Governing Body are the vision setters and strategic decision makers for the school.

We play a vital role in ensuring that there is the best possible education available to take every child as far as their talents allow.

The Governing body has three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

### **The Governing Body**

The Governing Body of St Luke's Primary School is made up of 14 Governors;

2 staff governors (including the Head teacher),

4 elected Parent Governors,

1 Local Authority Governor,

3 Foundation Governors (appointed by the church)

4 Co-opted Governors.

1 Associate Member

Co-opted 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 twice in the autumn term and once in each of the spring and summer terms. There are also a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail.

These are the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee; the Curriculum and Pupil-related Matters Committee, the Community Learning Team and the Pay and Performance Committee.

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

### **Governor Responsibilities**

In addition to the committee requirements, each governor takes a special interest in certain key areas of the school's curriculum linked to specific key areas of strategic focus and the school's development plan. Through monitoring visits each term, governors have a valuable insight into how the school operates, and are able to see for themselves whether the school is implementing their policies and improvement plans and monitor the effects that these are having

Governors are also particularly concerned about safeguarding and we have a nominated governor for safeguarding - Rev Anne-Marie Renshaw, who gives regular reports to the governors about any safeguarding matters.

One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we have reviewed and updated a number of key policies. The school's policies are available to view on the website or on request from the school office.

### **Academic Year 2017/2018**

The 2017/2018 Academic Year saw the appointment of Mr Martin Moriarty as Head Teacher, and the Governing Body have been working with Mr Moriarty to develop the school in line with the objectives of the School Development Plan. These objectives have centred around quality first teaching, Improving the standards of Mathematics & Writing across the school, and looking at the assessment of the children to ensure accurate and consistent marking.

Governors have been working in pairs in each triplet – EYFS, KS1, Upper & Lower KS2 to monitor progress. The Governors carried out 10 specific monitoring visits and in the spring term the Governor Body spent a morning together across the whole school looking at the areas identified in the School Development Plan.

In the Summer term the Diocese undertook their SIAMs inspection, and graded the School as Good in all areas. The Report clearly highlight the strengths of the school and its caring Christian ethos;

- There is clarity of intent across the head teacher, school leaders and staff which is based on the core Christian Values and which results in a mutually supportive community working for the good of all.
- The head teacher and his school leaders have a clearly expressed vision for school improvement based on the school's Christian underpinning.
- As a result, there has been rapid progress for most pupils, taking attainment from well below to almost being in line with national averages, since the appointment of the current head teacher.

- Governors have provided a high level of challenge to the school as it has been seeking to improve levels of achievement.

Looking forward into the new Academic year of 2018/2019, the Governors will support the school objectives of continuing to ensure quality first teaching, improve reading across the school, and further develop the teaching of Mathematics. St. Luke's has a unique place in Tiptree being at the centre of the community and a Church School. The School will look to Consult all stakeholders regularly and grow and develop St. Luke's as a caring and integral part of the Tiptree community.

### **Attendance at meetings :**

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).

### **Contacting the governing body**

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors Mr Stewart Eastbrook via the school office.

If you are a parent or carer and would like to give feedback on your experience of Tiptree St. Luke's Church of England VC Primary School please go to:  
[www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/give-your-views](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/give-your-views)

You can see the full list of governors, their areas of responsibilities; their attendance at meetings; minutes of governing body meetings and more information about what we do, on the Governors' page of the school website.