

OFFLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY ANNUAL GOVERNANCE IMPACT STATEMENT 2017-2018

Joy in learning, a fun, challenging
journey to be the best we can be.

This annual statement identifies some key aspects and comments, which helps to explain our evaluation of our strategic role against the three core functions of Governance between September 2017 and July 2018

ENSURING CLARITY OF VISION, ETHOS AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- The 2017-2018 academic year has been an important one in firmly establishing our school as a successful primary academy within the St. Bart's Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Being part of the Trust has meant we can work with other schools to raise standards without losing our unique identity
- The Governing Board (GB) completed the annual skills audit in order to identify the skills members offer and any gaps in our membership. As a result of this we have further strengthened the expertise of the GB through the appointment of a new parent governor, Mr. Rob Bloom in September 2018.
- Minutes of meetings, governor attendance records and reports of governors' visits to school provide evidence that members of the GB have continued to develop their strategic role through challenging questions focused on outcomes for all our children.
- Senior leaders and governors realised the importance of strategically planning for improvement through cluster working. Through our membership of St Bart's MAT subject leaders have joined clusters across the Trust, which is providing more ideas to enhance our offers to all groups of pupils across the school. At the same time our staff are supporting other schools and contributing to the development of the Trust overall. To use a well-known phrase 'The more we put in, the more we get out'

HOLDING THE PRINCIPAL TO ACCOUNT FOR THE EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF THE ACADEMY AND ITS PUPILS

- Governors and the Senior Management Team have continued working together to ensure that all staff engage with high quality professional development (CPD). Regular monitoring by governors individually and in committees has ensured that staff development opportunities have had a positive impact on the provision of high-quality teaching and creative learning opportunities for our children
- We now have several Specialist Leaders of Education on the staff, which has improved the consistency of high-quality teaching and learning. Other members of staff are attending training through the Trust including NPQML, First Class Leaders. All this is enabling us to retain our staff whilst also supporting staff career development
- Committees receive regular updates on all aspects of the curriculum, which has ensured that the new curriculum has been embedded effectively across all year groups and matches the needs of all our children. As an academy the freedom to make changes to our wider curriculum, has improved the children's' thinking and problem-solving skills. This has been acknowledged by the reports from Trust monitoring visits. Additional external support from the Trust is helping to enhance our curriculum and quality of teaching and learning
- Safeguarding is always a high priority for the GB. Governors and senior leaders make use of Trust support to ensure that we can be confident no known issue of pupil welfare or safety is ignored.
- Link governors for areas such as SEN., Maths, English and Pupil Premium have used their increased understanding of data to check on the impact of the school's actions to improve the progress of targeted groups and continue to close the gap between disadvantaged pupils and others in school and against national benchmark. Attainment at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 shows a continuing improvement against national standards and previous year's results. Pupils' progress at the end of Key Stage 2 in Reading and Maths showed an improvement on the previous year and attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 showed that our results had also improved on the previous year and are above national benchmarks. This is evidence of high-quality leadership, teaching and a positive attitude by pupils as a result of continuing focused governor monitoring.

SCRUTINISING THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE ACADEMY AND MAKING SURE ITS MONEY IS WELL SPENT

- The finances of the school are in excellent order with positive audit reports. As part of St Bart's MAT there are economies of scale. We are able to share services such as finance, payroll and human resources which is helping to save costs and support a balanced budget and focus our funding where it is most needed
- Astute budgeting by the senior management team, monitored by the GB and St Bart's MAT has meant that we continue to maintain a high-quality staffing structure as the school continues to grow. Governors consider this to be a success at a time when managing school budgets is very challenging. The school is very popular and the increased pupil numbers have enabled senior leaders and governors to maintain standards.
- Reports on the use of the Pupil Premium and Sports funding show how the money is spent impacting positively on the achievement of pupils in receipt of this additional funding.
- Sound budget management ensured that our ambition for a successful pre-school provision has been realised since it opened in September 2017. This additional facility has proved popular with parents and carers and standards of transition into Reception followed by transition into Year 1 has already shown improvements in children's skills and attitudes towards their learning

