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Governors' Annual Statement 2016

Morville C of E School, Academy under Bishop Anthony Educational Trust (BAET)

This is our second annual statement since conversion from local authority school to a primary academy. Details regarding members of our local governing body can be found on the governors' section of the school website. We have a range of professional skills between us including; financial, educational, theological, health & safety, agricultural, strategic planning and project management and have in common, that we are all proud to be supporting and working with this aspirational school.

We are working hard with staff to ensure that good and outstanding practices are embedded in all aspects of the school. Evidence from benchmarking and outside monitoring of the school by expert advisers at the end of this second year has shown that this work is paying dividends. Comments such as; "just look at the progress in pupils' books!" and "I could personally see that the children are well behaved, eager to learn and perform what is required of them. There was a vibrant but calm atmosphere", all go to show both pupils and staff are a credit to the school.

During the academic year 2015-16 the full governing body has met on average twice each term with additional smaller meetings and monitoring visits to school in between. In addition governors have undertaken training, visited other outstanding schools, developed new or have updated existing policies and conducted monitoring visits to check on pupil progress and compliance with policies. By choice, we are a hands-on group of governors and get involved in a range of practical activities to assist, including leading collective worship, fundraising and grounds maintenance working parties, which shows our 'above and beyond' commitment and pride in the school.

At the first meeting of the term governors agree to act on any short term tasks needing to be done, and at the second meeting they report back on tasks completed and progress made. Tasks this year included:

- public relations work in local press to actively promote the school to increase school numbers
- health and safety Audit, review of the Fire Safety Action Plan
- book scrutinies and learning walks with the Telford and Wrekin School Improvement Advisor, looking at progress in maths and English and phonics work and whether the school's marking policy is being followed consistently
- religious education and collective worship visits, including "Open the book" showing that Christian values are central plus regular visits by Preb. Cawdell and members of team ministry to lead assemblies
- updating and monitoring of discipline & behaviour policy, including positive recognition of pupils who consistently and routinely get on with things quietly and politely (Morville Passport)

- help with set up of the Early Years Foundation Stage indoor and outdoor environment
- audit of safeguarding procedures and records
- accompanying staff and pupils on school trips and sporting events
- regular meetings with Special Educational Needs coordinator (SENCO)
- facilitation of regular parents meetings and liaison with 'Friends of Morville School'

Ofsted inspectors advise that school governors should focus on the core functions shown below, and for each we have some examples of how the governors of Morville School have contributed this year.

<p>Setting the vision and strategic direction of school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors met with CEO of BAET to develop a 5 year strategic plan based on projections for growth of school roll. Priorities will be given to increasing the number of teaching staff when class-size threshold is reached followed by increased wrap-around care provision and infrastructure improvement (hall space, car-parking etc.) • Setting an ambitious vision for the school, based on school mission statement and monitoring to ensure that all stakeholders understand the culture of the school and work towards it • As part of this governors have helped to ensure that new government requirements around British Values are being implemented in the school. • Annual targets for the head teacher are set and monitored • Review and approval of new policies and procedures, ensuring that all required policies and items of information are accessible on the school website • All governors are aware of processes around "Keeping Children Safe in Education", and any health and safety and safeguarding items are reported to meetings as they arise.
<p>Holding the head teacher to account for the school's educational performance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is regular monitoring and evaluation of data/reports using head teacher's reports, data presented by middle managers and on-line data sources, such as RAISE online. Governors can identify any gaps in attainment and progress, have set aspirational targets for pupil achievement (which form part of teachers' performance management targets) and know what is being done to improve. • Individual governors have made visits to the school for learning walks or book scrutinies alongside senior/ middle leaders and external assessors. Particular attention during spring term has been to looking at progress of low attaining groups from autumn term assessments. • Governors have been involved in setting the Head's performance management targets and in her annual appraisal.
<p>Ensuring financial resources are well spent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key financial achievement this year was to weather a second tremendously tight year of low income based on low historical numbers of children by prudent and targeted spending. We expect a balanced in-year budget along with a promising increase in numbers on roll. This will give a sound basis for strategic development of the school. • BAET are responsible for the school budget, however Governors work with Head Teacher to ensure that school resources are well focused and value for money and report this back to the trust. Governors have produced a 5 year financial forecast based on strategic planning for the expansion of the school. • Governors attended selection interviews for new staff

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors discuss spending from additional grants such as Sports Premium and check that funded activities are having positive results for pupil for example Shropshire sports partnership, and playground markings and Specialist Teaching assistant time. • When issues arise with contracting organisations over repairs or use of the school building, members of the governing body have assisted in negotiations. • Governors helped with coordination of the two main charity fundraising events of the school year. • Capital Funding secured and spent on improvements to kitchen.
Ensuring statutory duties are met, the curriculum offer is appropriate and priorities approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One governor attended Health and Safety training and has been involved in fire safety review and action monitoring and also assisted with health and safety audit of premises • Governors met with Crime Prevention Officer under Safer schools initiative to discuss preventative actions to deter criminal activity on site. • The link governor for special educational needs has visited an outstanding school to learn how governors work with their SENCO and has used this knowledge to review the Morville school offer, policy and report and planned provision for SEN pupils. • One governor has audited the single central record and safeguarding record to ensure compliance with policy. • One governor attended safeguarding for governors training. • Governors have visited school to review behavior of both classes and also to look at the social, moral, spiritual and cultural education provision.

Current Local Governing Body Membership

Governor		Link areas
Ms Susan Blackburn	Executive Head Teacher (ex officio)	
Ms Elizabeth Townsley*	Chair and Foundation Governor	Effectiveness of Leadership & Management, Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs, Children in Care
Mrs Fiona Thompson*	Vice Chair and Foundation Governor	Quality of teaching, Learning & assessment and Literacy
Mr Nick Norbury*	Foundation Governor	Finance plus Outcomes for Children and learners
Mr James Lee*	Parent Governor	Personal development, behaviour and welfare
Mr Philip Rowley*	Parent Governor	Outcomes for children and learners plus EYFS
Preb. Simon Cawdell	Incumbent Parish Priest (ex officio)	RE, Collective worship and Effectiveness of leadership and management
Mrs Eileen Thomas**	Co-opted Governor	Quality of teaching, learning & assessment, Maths, Transition to secondary school
Vacancy	Staff Governor	
Mrs Judith Tinsley	CEO of BAET	

*These governors, have a tenure of 4 years commencing 1/9/2014

**This governor has a tenure of 1 year commencing 14/4/16 but may be co-opted for further year annually