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## **Governors' Annual Statement 2016-17**

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

This is our third 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. The culmination of our work this year have been the recent inspections; Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) and OFSTED in June 2017, both of which have graded Morville as a Good school in all areas. This reflects the huge amount of hard work by pupils, staff and governors and tremendous positive support of the wider Morville community.

This year, governors and staff have interrogated teaching and learning outcomes very carefully in the light of 2016 SAT and Early Years results to establish reasons for attainment and progress in individual pupils. One area of scrutiny by governors during this academic year was in delivery of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. Governors and Head agreed to invite external consultants to review provision and as a result a detailed action plan was agreed with the teaching staff including training on assessment/evidence recording tools and class organisation, plus joint lesson planning and delivery of lessons with consultants and teachers at Coalbrookdale School. Consultants and governors reviewed this provision at the end of the first half of spring term and observed a significant improvement as a result.

During the academic year 2016-17 the full governing body has met on average twice each term with monitoring visits to school in between. In addition, governors have undertaken training, visited other outstanding schools and met with governors of other BAET schools to share ideas and best practice. Governors have helped develop new or have updated existing policies, and conducted monitoring visits to check on pupil progress and compliance with policies. In addition to fulfilling our primary strategic function, we are a hands-on group of governors and get involved in a range of practical activities to assist, including leading a weekly collective worship (as part of the Bridgnorth Team Ministry), 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:

- health and safety Audit, review of the Fire Safety Action Plan

- book scrutinies and learning walks with the Telford and Wrekin and BAET School Improvement Advisor, looking at progress in maths and EYFS provision.
- a thorough review of religious education policy and curriculum this year, led by Rev'd Cawdell. Good examples from other church schools in Hereford and neighbouring diocese have been observed and some ideas adopted at Morville.
- audit of safeguarding procedures and records
- regular meetings with Special Educational Needs coordinator (SENCO)
- co-invigilation of SAT tests
- 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><b>Setting the vision and strategic direction of school</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An ambitious vision for the school was set for the school in 2015-16 based on school mission statement. During 2016-17 we have built on this by defining Morville Schools' five core values; respect, thoughtfulness, friendship, trust and perseverance. These are both Christian and British values. Our self-evaluation and subsequent school development plan has these values at the heart of what we do.</li> <li>• Governors have initiated parent and pupil questionnaires in the spring 2017 and have spoken with staff about the five values to gauge stakeholders' understanding of the culture of the school. We have evidence that these are well understood and are actively promoted in the day to day work of the school community. As a result of parent comments the values are far more explicit in and around the school building and website for all to see and feature in the weekly newsletter.</li> <li>• Review and approval of new policies and procedures, ensuring that all required policies and items of information are accessible on the school website</li> <li>• All governors have reviewed the Sept 2016 update to "Keeping Children Safe in Education", and understand the changes to the document. Governors have acted upon their responsibilities which has included a careful review of the playground procedures during and after school. This has been communicated with parents who understand the reasons behind the procedure. Any health and safety and safeguarding items are reported to meetings as they arise.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Holding the head teacher to account for the school's educational performance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual targets for the head teacher are set and monitored, and the targets for teachers are also agreed. Governors have been involved in the head's annual appraisal.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Ensuring financial resources are well spent</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Following tight financial control from two years ago, we have been able to offset a small in-year deficit in the 2015-16 financial year –where our very low income was based on the previous year’s very low number on roll. We are exploring the possibility of increasing teaching staff in 2017-18 if the budget permits and the number of pupils on roll warrant an additional class.</li> <li>• Governors attended selection interviews for new staff</li> <li>• Governors discuss spending from additional grants such as Sports Premium and check that funded activities are having positive results for pupil for example East Shropshire sports partnership, Specialist Teaching assistant time.</li> <li>• When issues arise with contracting organisations over repairs or use of the school building, members of the governing body have assisted in negotiations.</li> <li>• SEN Link governor has had discussions with SENCO and Head Teacher regarding spending of pupil premium funding to provide external assessment for individual pupils’ needs.</li> <li>• Governors helped with coordination and promotion of the main charity fundraising events of the school year and have strong links with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) who organise the Morville May Fair in the grounds of St Gregory’s Church and Morville Hall. Foundation Governors keep the PCC and St Gregory’s congregation informed regularly on what is happening in the school and they regularly support school events in the church.</li> <li>• Governors have been involved in seeking a building improvement grant this year, for repairs to the school roof. This was unsuccessful unfortunately, so further applications will be made to funding bodies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ensuring statutory duties are met, the curriculum offer is appropriate and priorities approved</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most Governors attended training on the Home office ‘Prevent’ strategy</li> <li>• The Safeguarding link governor attended a Child Protection update run by BAET, and this information has informed recent policy review (including e-safety) and school website update.</li> <li>• One governor has audited the single central record and safeguarding record to ensure compliance with policy.</li> <li>• Governors have visited school to review behavior of both classes and also to look at the social, moral, spiritual and cultural education provision.</li> </ul>

**Plans for 2017-18 academic year**

- Incorporation of areas for improvement identified in recent inspections into the school development plan. For example SEN interventions and maths development
- Wider advertising and publicity for school.
- Funding applications for roof repairs

### Current Local Governing Body Membership

<b>Governor</b>		<b>Link areas</b>
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. Rev'd. 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 tenure of 4 years commencing 1/9/2014

\*\*This governor has tenure of 1 year commencing 12/7/16 but may be co-opted for further year annually