St Francis Of Assisi Catholic Primary School 2024-2025

Annual Governance Statement for the Local Governing Board of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School July 2025	
In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School Local Governing Body are: **1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction.** **2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.** 3. **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**	
Governance arrangements	The Governing Body of St Francis of Assisi Primary School was re- constituted in April 2016 when we joined the St John the Baptist Catholic Multi-Academy Trust. It is known as the Local Governing Body. Members can be found on the Governors page of the school website. Details of all attendance can be found on the school website also.

The school continues to go from strength to strength. As a LGB we have continued to be regularly impressed with the dedication of all the staff and commitment to delivering the highest quality of teaching and learning. The LGB are proud of what the young people have achieved in the last year.

The school development plan based on the strategic view from the Governor Board and influence of the MAT has been focused on the following areas. We have used this plan to question, explorer and hold the Headteacher to account on the outcomes. This process has been well documented in the various minutes of meetings held and school visits.

Aim 1. To enhance the distinctive Catholic nature of the schools and the Trust

The Catholic Mission, Vision and Values are fully embraced, driving all key decisions and all staff can articulate what they look like in practice. This was seen by the full implementation of the RED across the school.

The LGB has seen regular Masses, Reconciliation, Liturgies and Celebration of the Word as well as the pupils taking increased responsibility for Prayer and Liturgy opportunities. We have also seen an increase in parental and family participation.

Aim 2. To ensure every child and young person receives the very best education so that they are empowered to develop, learn and achieve.

All pupils make excellent progress across a broad and balanced range of subjects, acquiring the knowledge and skills they need to succeed. Aspirations and expectations for all pupils are ambitious.

One of the focuses this year has been to introduce a whole school spelling approach, which was implemented and evidence being gathered. Adaptive teaching continues to be embedded in school and has supported improvements in writing.

The curriculum continues to evolve but is aligned with the Trust Curriculum Principles. This is well tested internally and externally (e.g. SEF, Ofsted) and demonstrates a well-designed curriculum offer.

There was a strong focus on SEND ensuring good progress from starting points and an enhancement in the interventions it offers.

The LGB was pleased to see strong SAT results once again - well done.

Aim 3. To develop and embed sustainable, high quality and robust leadership across the Trust and its schools

We continue to promote development opportunities for our team that support not only school, Trust and the wider school community. We have seen being achieved through enablement of the following roles - Deputy Director of Norwich Research School, Evidence Lead in Education, Seconded Diocesan Primary RE Lead and Section 48 Inspector, SCITT trainer, development of Assistant SENDCo role.

The Trust Improvement Strategy continues to support robust evaluation and inform systematic & responsive strategic planning.

We have also advanced Governor leadership through Learning walks, training sessions and training support.

Aim 4. To strengthen engagement between our schools and our communities

Diversity is a strong thread running through the school and its curriculum. Where our workforce is a strong reflection of our pupil diversity.

St Francis actively collaborates with other schools including supporting the Trust and beyond, to share expertise and resources. This is also seen through its strong links with parents and wider local community.

We are proud of the young people who have raised an incredible amount of money throughout the year for various good causes.

Aim 5. To achieve excellence in facilities, staffing, professional development and resourcing

As common with all schools, funding remains challenging. The LGB has been focused on supporting school to ensure good value for money and it's satisfied the decisions made will ensure the school remains on a stable footing and the longer term returns to good levels of reserves.

During the year the school implemented a recruit tool to expand the breadth and depth of new recruits. The school continues to invest in its people through high quality CPD and new systems to support this.

Wellbeing continues to be a key focus with the school implementing "Calm Weeks" as well as through PD conversations & surveys ensuring a high-level wellbeing is maintained.

The school site and buildings remain is good condition with a structured plan of repairs and replacements in place. Health & safety checks are maintained to ensure this is a safe environment for our young people and staff.

General

Safeguarding continues to always be considered, included, reviewed and feedback back on to the LGB. With the highest possible standards and processes being followed.

We have reviewed and agreed various policies, and these are all are available on the school website.

Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents - please ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.

Future plans for the governors	Governors will focus on the continued pursuit of excellence to successfully create a culture of high expectations and aspirations. We continue to provide strategic guidance and financial oversite.
How you can contact the governing body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback, and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, via the school office. You can find more information about the Local Governing Body on the Governor's page of the school website.