



# ST. WILFRID'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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## **Governor Impact Statement 2017/18**

Working in partnership with the Principal and her team, the Governing Board has had a significant impact on developing the Academy.

St Wilfrid's Church of England Academy sees education as an integral part of the mission of the Church to proclaim God as Creator, Christ as Redeemer and the Holy Spirit as Inspirer of all that is good in human living. The main purpose of the Academy is to provide an excellent education, both academic and social, in a Christian context, to enable its students to grow up to take their full part as citizens of this world and the next.

To give you an idea of what the Governing Board are doing, please find listed a summary of key activities, events, and systems highlighting the impact of the Governing Board on Academy Improvement and the place of the Academy in its local community.

Although by no means exhaustive, it does illustrate how the Governing Board are contributing to their three core strategic functions as outlined in the 'Governors Handbook January 2017'. They 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; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the Academy and making sure its money is well spent.

Effective governance is based on six key features:

- Strategic leadership that sets and champions vision, ethos and strategy
- Accountability that drives up educational standards and financial performance
- People with the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity
- Structures that reinforce clearly defined roles and responsibilities
- Compliance with statutory and contractual requirements
- Evaluation to monitor and improve the quality and impact of governance.

The Governing Board contains people with a broad portfolio of expertise, which supports the Academy in achieving its objectives, which is demonstrated following a recent skills audit and the desired skills being set out when advertising parent governor vacancies. This has resulted in the successful recruitment of a parent governor, further strengthening the financial skills of the board.

### **Academy Improvement Plan**

The Academy Improvement Plan is monitored by the Governing Board by receiving reports from the Principal on a termly basis.

The Governors have overseen improvement to the Academy facilities, with the allocation of finances to a new build project. The new build has been sized to allow a full year group to be seated in exam conditions, providing a much needed exam venue for the Academy. The purpose built venue has proven to be incredibly successful over the external examination period with 5,738 individual exam papers and 106 laptop scripts processed during the Summer Term.

Construction of the Chapel has commenced in the student quad, with funds allocated from the Friends of Saint Wilfrid's. The construction is due to be completed in August 2018, with the planned opening being in October 2018.

A programme of Academy improvements are planned for during the summer holidays. This includes reworking of the bathrooms on the main corridor to create a unisex bathroom space in response to the feedback from the new bathrooms in the exam venue. Further work is also to be undertaken on the flooring.

The safety of students, staff and visitors to the Academy is paramount and has been a particular focus for governor training over the year. Courses attended by the governing board have included safer recruitment, Health and Safety responsibilities for governors, Workshop to Raise Awareness of PREVENT (WRAP) and the current threat for governors. Whole governing board focussed training provided by Lancashire County Council was centred around online safety for governors.

### **Teacher Recruitment and Principal Performance**

Governors are involved in the safe recruitment and selection of staff and use the appointment process to ensure that high quality staff are appointed who share the Academy's vision and aims and continually strive for improvement. They are also responsible, with the support of an external education adviser, for establishing the Principal's performance objectives and undertaking regular reviews of progress throughout the academic year.

### **Policies**

Governors review policies regularly, to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date. As policies are updated, governors ensure that they are owned by individuals who are then accountable to the Governing Board for ensuring they are complied with in practice and are fit for purpose.

With the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation, the Academy has reviewed its arrangements for the protection of data and the processes which staff use to ensure that the Academy is not only compliant with the regulations but is working efficiently.

### **Financial Management**

The Governors have worked with Academy staff to achieve a clear and informative financial planning, budgeting, reporting and monitoring process which helps in deciding what the Academy can afford to do in terms of improving facilities and learning opportunities for the students. The impact of the Governor's role is in ensuring that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective, providing value for money.

Governors have appointed internal auditors MHA Moore and Smalley to oversee Academy operations.

### **Visiting the Academy**

Governors make regular visits to the Academy, in particular to their specific linked curriculum area. As part of the continuous improvement process of Governance, the links are currently under review.

The Academy Student Council provide an annual presentation to the Governing Board with the work that they have undertaken during the year.

### **Being Part of the Community**

The Academy has worked with local Primary Schools and the Academy Choir has performed at various events throughout the year, including the annual Christmas event at the Cathedral, the festive carols always sound majestic as they ring through every corner of the impressive sanctuary.

Four of our Year 11 mathematicians came joint-runners-up in Maths Miniatures short-film competition for schools and colleges across the UK. A competition organised jointly by MathsWorldUK, UKMT, University of Leeds, and IMO2019 Ltd.

Our U14 girls football team have been crowned Lancashire Champions in the final of the Lancashire Cup.

St Wilfrid's played host to the finale of a 2-year long Erasmus project, which saw the launch of (possibly the world's very first) VR museum made by students!

Students have also been involved with initiatives within the local community; including raising over £12,000 for the Foodbank as part of the Wilfridian Award. This award challenges students to read ten books; complete five maths challenges; demonstrating excellent behaviour; raising at least £15 for charity; attending extra-curricular clubs; delivering five hours of community service and upholding an excellent record of punctuality and attendance.