

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of St Anne's Fulshaw Primary School**

July 2022

Claire Carter BA Mus, MBA – Chair of Governors

**The Governors are appointed and elected to:**

Create and protect the school's vision and ethos  
Provide an independent and strategic view  
Be part of a team focusing on long term development and improvement  
Provide a visible form of accountability for the Headteacher and staff of the school  
Maintain the Christian character of the school  
Ensure links to the community we serve and the wider community  
Support the school, the Head and staff  
Know our school  
Put the children FIRST

**St Anne's  
Governing Body**

All governors are volunteers, consisting of staff, parents, clergy and members of the wider community. A governor's role is to be strategic, to guide, to challenge, to monitor and support the school and its staff who run the operation of the school day to day.

The Governing Body of St Anne's Fulshaw CE Primary School is made up of 2 Staff Governors (including the Headteacher), 2 Foundation Governors, 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor, 4 Co-opted Governors. Co-opted Governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

The full Governing Body meets once each term, or more as required. Occasionally there is a need to call an (extraordinary) FGB. We also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail, these committees report directly to the Full Governing Body. Our committee structure is as follows:

1. Resources Committee, which focuses on finance, premises and related financial personnel matters
2. Aims and Achievement Committee which focuses on our curriculum and pupils' achievements (both academically and otherwise) and pupils' learning and experience at school.
3. Personnel, Pay and Performance Committee.

We also have committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline, complaints and staffing matters if and when required.

In addition to Full Governing Body and Committee membership governors have specific link governor roles. Governors monitor and review the work of the school in specific subject areas and responsibilities and this work feeds in directly to our Strategic School Development Plan (SSDP).

	<p>The culture, values and ethos are crucial to governors of St Anne's and as a Christian school our aim is to ensure our actions and decisions are considered against those values.</p> <p>It is important for us to be visible (something that has been difficult in the COVID era). We are also able to keep up to date with the daily life and news of the school via the weekly newsletter The Friday Flyer as well as class and school Twitter pages.</p> <p>It is important that as a smaller school we forge and maintain good links with our wider community, the church, our local residents, shops and more. So often I am glad to report that locals refer to our school as a lovely special place with well-behaved pupils. This goodwill benefits all in our community and is important to our success. We know St Annes is a special community and continue to strive to keep this the case.</p> <p>See our website for a full list of our governors and a short biog. <a href="http://www.stannesfulshaw.net/page/governors/2304">http://www.stannesfulshaw.net/page/governors/2304</a></p>
<p><b>Attendance record of governors</b></p>	<p>Governors have generally excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). We have found it difficult recently to recruit new governors, perhaps a sign of the times, but have still managed to be able to operate effectively as a governing body. See attendance detail below.</p>
<p><b>The work that the school, governors and committees have done.</b></p>	<p>The Governing Body is responsible for in excess of 60 policies, many of which are statutory (i.e. required by the DfE), many are reviewed annually and the work is divided through our committees in the main. The Governing Body's role is to review, amend and discuss policies as is required by law and according to the school's requirements. It also ratifies and records these policies.</p> <p>Our Governing Board has managed to make use of some of the positives to come out of new ways of working due to Covid. Whilst meetings are generally best done face to face, some committees or emergency meetings as well as training courses work well online and can make the balance of commitments for both staff and governors and their families work a little easier.</p> <p>Governors and staff have not been able to spend so much time together during COVID but are looking forward to returning to our INSET day event in September to discuss, review and consider our strategy for the coming year and beyond.</p> <p>Governors undergo training throughout the year, new governors receive induction training and can and should select courses relevant to the work their committees require and the areas of strategic focus for the forthcoming year. This underpins the commitment that all governors make to the school and its pupils. At this recent time this training has moved online more than ever and this could be a positive</p>

that's come out of Covid, enabling new governors to manage their time, families and work life. Governors remain committed to mirroring some of the staff training in many areas, in particular safeguarding.

### **Our Committees**

The **Aims and Achievement Committee** reviews a large number of policies including those relating to safeguarding and vulnerable children. Recently our staff have reviewed our entire curriculum in some depth and provided governors with details with which governors can explore the impact of these when meeting individual teachers to discuss specific subject areas. It is important that whilst it's great to be able to return to more familiar ways of working post-COVID, the pressures put on our staff are great and governors must remain mindful of this in their work too.

The committee reviews the work of the HT and staff at a strategic level with regard to all areas of the curriculum, school data, SATs results and progress data, safeguarding and child protection to name a few. Our school uses a very effective monitoring tool so teachers and governors more widely can see where our children are succeeding and use this data to feed our improvement strategies and focus for forthcoming years.

The **Resources Committee** reviews all finance and premises matters. The HT, Committee Chair and LA Budget Officer meet three times per year to set, review and plan the school's budget given the funds provided by government. School budgets are extremely difficult to balance and seem to be worsening as a result of COVID, cost of living increases and so on.

I have previously reported the huge pressures on our school and schools in general on our SEN budgets, these remain. Our school and governors are committed to ensuring our children are supported first and foremost and we work to this end always. I would be lying if I didn't say these pressures are great and cause difficulties and frustration. As chair I am very grateful of the work and support of our governors to ensure we never forget to put our children first whilst balancing our finances.

Our **Personnel, Pay and Performance Committee** monitors many policies and pay arrangements, staffing structure and much more. A panel of governors also conducts the Headteacher's performance appraisal.

**Minutes of Governing Body and Committee** meetings are public documents – you can either find them on the Governors' page of our website or you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings. Minutes are published the following term after the meeting, once approved.

**Challenges faced by our Governing Body over the past year.**

1. Supporting school with the continuing challenges of COVID and recovery has not been an easy one. It has been a joy to return to the school building to see those smiling faces and the

	<p>energy in the school. It reminds one why we do what we do and what a great responsibility we hold. I had the pleasure to join a school trip to the Hallé recently which was an absolute pleasure.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Finances – Always a particular difficulty in a small school where there are many pressures.</li> <li>3. Wellbeing – As a flagship school for the Emotional Healthy Schools programme our challenges have been to continue to grow and develop the support for all in our school community. The pressures of work for our staff in such difficult times for the profession have not gone unnoticed by governors and we continue to do what we can to ensure all in our school are emotionally healthy too.</li> <li>4. Our school is actually one of the most diverse in this area and whilst we can face challenges of language for example we embrace and celebrate all the positives that this offers our community and we are richer for it.</li> <li>5. A small school comes with both huge positives and indeed some challenges. The workload and expectation put on our staff can be great and governors are as ever in awe of the considerable dedication of our staff. Whilst COVID recovery was a crucial part of our work this past year, staff have also looked forward, worked on curriculum updates and focused on the delivery our Mental Health programme also delivered throughout our school as part of our curriculum offer. Alongside this more events, sports activities and trips have returned to enrich the school experience for our children. Our staff have worked harder this year than I thought was possible and governors and the wider community are very grateful.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Future plans for the governors</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue our focus on Wellbeing. As the link governor for this subject area personally, I recently had the pleasure to hear about all of the work being done in school on the MyHappyMind NHS programme. Building those skills early is very much aligned with the St Anne’s ethos to ensure the whole child is developed and prepared for life after primary school.</li> <li>2. Expertise and continued CPD for staff to develop their skills and subject areas remain a priority for governors.</li> <li>3. Wider curriculum in sports and active play as part of our broad and balanced curriculum. The link between physical health and mental health is well documented. The introduction of outdoor equipment, mud kitchens and active play areas is all supported by governors to utilise sports funds appropriately and ensure they that benefit all pupils and also support those catch-up activities.</li> </ol>

	<p>4. COVID Catch up – academic, social and emotional. As time has gone on in this recovery period, some ‘gaps’ have become more evident over time. It's crucial that governors continue to support the school in addressing these for the long term.</p> <p>5. Ethos and culture are very important to St Anne’s, from which successes elsewhere flow. This was difficult in COVID. Previously, we were used to being around each other more, we were used to visiting the church weekly for assemblies and services. Something that governors did worry about, but I'm glad to report that things are very much back on track now and governors are keen to ensure that not only our pupils but their families benefit from our inclusive and caring culture and that parents and carers support their children and the school. It is well documented that children do well in school if their families are active in the life of the school.</p>
<b>How you can contact the Governing Body</b>	<p>If you would like to discuss joining our Governing Body feel free to get in touch for an informal discussion. We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Claire Carter via the school office or governors’ e-mail. <a href="mailto:Governors@stannesfulshaw.net">Governors@stannesfulshaw.net</a></p>

### St Anne's Fulshaw CE Primary School Governing Body

<b>Governor</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Term of current office expiry</b>
Claire Carter (Chair of Governors, Clerk to the Resources Committee, Clerk to the PPP Committee, Clerk to the AA Committee – temporary)	LA Governor	2025
Vicky Wilson (Vice Chair of the FGB, Chair of the Resources Committee)	Parent Governor	2025
Richard Mathews (Chair of the PPP Committee)	Parent Governor	2025
Jennie Prince (Curate)	Foundation Governor	On leaving post in March 2022
Rev Caroline Throup	Ex-Officio Governor	On leaving post in July 2022
Natalie Lloyd (Chair of the AA Committee)	Co-opted Governor	2023
Wendy Clark	Staff Governor	2024
Clare Daniel	Staff Governor	On leaving post
Mahbub Zamen	Co-opted Governor	2025 new governor May 2021, left due to ill health 2022.

**St Anne's Fulshaw CE Primary School - Governors' Attendance Record for 2021/2022**

<b>Governor</b>	<b>Full Governing Body</b>	<b>Resources Committee</b>	<b>Aims &amp; Achievement</b>	<b>Personnel, Pay &amp; Performance</b>
Claire Carter	100%	100%	100%	100%
Vicky Wilson	100%	100% (Committee Chair)		
Richard Matthews	100%			100% (Committee Chair)
Rev Caroline Throup	100%		66%	
Natalie Lloyd	100%		100% (Committee Chair)	
Wendy Clark	100%	100%		100%
Clare Daniel	66%	100%	66%	100%
Mahbub Zamen	33%		33%	