

**2023 Newport CE Junior School Governors Annual Statement**

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| Introduction |
| The focus of the Governing Body (GB), during this year has once again been that of maintaining the high standards that we have come to expect of Newport CE Junior School and how we as a Governing Body can build upon the good work that the Head Teacher, Deputy Head and all NJS Staff continue to undertake.  As a Governing Body we are committed to the ‘making a difference through god’s love’ motto and use Compassion, Courage and Community as we support and challenge the school as part of our governance and assurance activities.  We remain ambitious for all Newport CE Junior School children and through our passion for education and a commitment to continuous school improvement we look to drive the school to ensure that best possible outcomes are achieved for all. Our governance is supported by high-quality objective data and a understanding of the views and needs of pupils, staff, parents, carers and our local community. We embrace the ’school family’ and put the children at the heart of all of we do as we continue in our role as a Governing Body to provide assurance and governance to all of the school performance. |

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| Meet the governing board |
| The Governing Body 2022-2022:  Chair: Laurie Boardman  Vice: Claire Bowen  Headteacher: Nicola Moody  Foundation: Rev Merry  Parent: Marc Bates  Parent: Sarah Case  Co-opted: Mark Yates  Foundation: Anne Stevens  Staff: Max Jones  Co-opted: Lesley Green  The annual review of the Governors Code of Conduct was completed during this time and can be found on the school website.  The Governing Body works as a ‘whole team’, meeting 6 times per year, twice in each term, without any separate committees, any emergent issues are covered by forming GB teams on a “task and complete” basis. An agenda for each meeting is set either by the Chair of Governors and Headteacher or by the LA , the agenda for these meetings ensuring that we address all the tasks which the Governing Body is required to consider. From these meeting the Governing Body will assign actions or activities arising from the meeting, these are recorded in the minutes. In addition to ‘commissioning’ activities or actions on their behalf, the Governing Body may wish to delegate monitoring activities to members of the GB’. This could apply to statutory functions, and/or the priorities of the School Plan. In each case, where a function has been delegated GB members have a statutory duty to report any action or decision to the Governing Body at the next meeting.  Please see Terms of Reference for more detail. |

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| The role of the governing board 22-23 |
| Key activity during this academic year:  **SAFEGUARDING**  All Governors read KCSIE 2022 and signed to confirm their understanding. The Child Protection Policy was reviewed and Governors minuted their agreement to this policy. The lead Governor for safeguarding has completed pupil voice with children to explore their lived experiences of school. The Governor has completed a learning walk and challenged staff on their knowledge of safeguarding policy and procedure. Governors have checked the single central record. New Governors have attended Child Protection Awareness and PREVENT and in Nov 22 Governors attended a safeguarding training course delivered by the LA. Governors also supported the school to complete the Section 157 audit of safeguarding at NJS and submitted this to the Telford Safeguarding Board. In addition, safeguarding is discussed in all GB meetings. As a result of this activity Governors can report that safeguarding policy and practise at NJS is compliant.  **VISION AND VALUES**  All Governors are fully aware of the vision and values of the school, their links to Church and our values which are compassion, courage and community. Furthermore, the Governors fully support the aims of the school to ensure that school is inclusive, welcoming and a loving church school, which gives children and adults the opportunity to reach their full potential, so that through God’s love they can make a difference to the world around them. They know how this vision and the values we aspire to underpin all of their leadership work. All notes of visit report back to the body on the impact of their work in relation to the vision and values of the school.  **CHRISTIAN DISTINCTIVENESS**  The Governing body is committed to the Christian distinctiveness of this school. The Foundation Governors are especially proactive in identifying strengths and next steps against the current SIAMS framework and have ensured that these are understood by the Governing Body. Governors have regularly observed collective worship and completed pupil voice. The Foundation Governor meets termly with the Headteacher and twice annually with the Beliefs and Values coordinator to look at the impact of Understanding Christianity. The school enters into collective worship both in school and in St Nicholas’ Church at key periods of the Christian Calendar.  As a result of this work the Governing body understands and delivers on the foundations on which this school was built.  **SEND PROVISION**  Our lead SEND Governor has held half termly meetings with the school SENDCO to discuss provision and to action plan for school improvement. Case studies have been discussed and strengths and development points identified. The SEND Governor has attended a meeting with parents to understand their perspective. The SEND Governor has observed classroom practise to be able to understand the curriculum offer.  As a result of this work the SEND Governor is able to ask challenging questions that drive school improvement. There is an increasing level of parental engagement through coffee afternoons and transition meetings. Provision maps are better tracked with response forms, and these are chased if they have not been received to ensure all parents have the information they need about their child’s provision.  **HEALTH AND SAFETY**  The lead Health and Safety Governor has completed a learning walk to check the site is safe for staff and pupils, furthermore, when undertaking other visits into school he continues to monitor the site to ensure it remains safe for all. Governors’ meetings challenge the Headteacher on Health and Safety matters and monitor closely any actions until closure. Policies, such as the Health and Safety Policy and Mental Health Policy have undergone their annual reviews.  **FINANCE**  The Lead Finance Governor met with the Head, School Business Manager and Finance Officer each half term in order to review the financial position of the school.  These meetings were reported to all Governors via Notes of Visits, and discussion at Full Governors Meetings. For the financial year to 31 March 2023, the school posted a deficit of £58,446, fortunately the prudent management of previous years had meant that there was a carried for surplus to absorb the deficit.  The key decision was to maintain 3 x Class entry in all year groups for both September 2022 and 2023.  This was felt essential as the pupil census had 325 children on roll (capacity 360), resulting in the need to provide appropriate teaching staff provision with the school at 90% capacity.  Newport Junior School’s finances have come under continued pressure as a result in shortfalls in funding, this is further compounded as pupil numbers are expected to remain at 90% of capacity.  Furthermore, increases in staff salaries, energy costs and catering provision, without a proportionate rise in central funding, will result in the majority of the remaining carried forward surplus being utilised to cover the expected deficit for the current financial year ending 31 March 2024. As a result of this work the Governing body has a clear picture of the school finances and we remain concerned about the schools’ finances going forward.  **CURRICULUM LEADERSHIP**  All curriculum subjects have a link Governor. All link Governors meet face to face with their curriculum leaders at least twice a year. Meetings may have included elements of deep dive activity such as a pupil voice which has enabled Governors to have a deep understanding of the level of knowledge retained by the pupils from the curriculum. Link Governors record their visits into school and report on their findings to the Governing Body, they have also supported and challenged curriculum leaders on their action plans and looked to see that they are also consistent with whole school priorities.  **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**  The Governing body performance management panel made up of three members of the Governing Body, reviewed the performance of the Headteacher in September 2022 alongside the School Improvement Advisor. The panel challenging the Headteacher and the School Improvement Advisor on the evidence presented and then determining if all targets have been met. This is a robust process which is evidence based against measurable targets which the panel ensures the Head Teacher is assessed against. This process and its outcome of the review was fed back to the full Governing body by the Chair and was minuted. The performance management of all staff was anonymously reviewed by the Governing body and this process was minuted.  Overall, the Governing body remains very proud of the impact we have had on the Newport CE Junior School across this academic year, through our role as the “critical friend” and as we continue to meet our statutory duties. As a result, we continue to drive forward school improvement and ensure that Newport CE Junior School perpetuates “learning to make a difference through God’s love”. |