



## **Governor Impact Statement 2023-24**

### **Introduction from Chair**

Hello

I am coming to the end of my fifth term as chair of your governing board and am pleased to report that the Board is going from strength to strength. Each Governor brings their different skills and expertise to our meetings that enriches our discussions and ensures we are accountable for our three strategic functions -

1. Ensure clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction.
2. Holding the Head teacher (Executive leader) to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

I am pleased to report that our school has once again had a very productive and successful year. Our Head Teacher, Mrs Mills has demonstrated continued and effective Leadership and has managed the school from an operational perspective. We as a Governing Board have led strategically. Over the three terms we have experienced many changes and challenges, and I can report that due to the ongoing team spirit of everyone, associated with our school, we have achieved positive outcomes. External visitors have told us that our school is welcoming and that there is enthusiasm, dedication and commitment amongst teaching, administration and school support staff. I on behalf of the Governing Board wish to extend my gratitude and thanks to everyone associated with our school.

We have lost two very valued teachers, Mrs Anne Washington who has secured a headship at a Lancashire primary school and Mrs Jane Charlton, who has taken retirement. We will miss them both for having given many years dedicated service to the school. We enjoyed a special school event in church for them in July and welcomed their families, past pupils and parents to give them a good send off. We wish them both well. The Governing Board has appointed a new Deputy Head Teacher, joining us after Christmas and we look forward to welcoming and working with her.

Over summer, the children worked with their teachers and the Horwich Historical Society to research the history of Horwich Parish, this was showcased in the newly refurbished school hall, with school alumni, parents and visitors looking back on our school, which is the oldest in Horwich and dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Board wish to thank Mrs Hiller, history lead for her input and commitment.

The Governing Board has and continues to monitor the financial position of the school and like many Boards, has had to make some difficult decisions, regarding how the money is spent. I can report however that currently the school's position is stable. However, as we all know, things can change, and we need to be ready for the unexpected. We have high quality teachers in our school for the benefit of pupils and their educational development and safety must remain two key financial areas of focus. May 2024 saw a new Government administration and we therefore need to be ready as a Governing Board for any changes.

The Head Teacher, Mrs Mills has led her team to provide us with some excellent Key stage results this year, which is encouraging. There is more to do, and we must never be complacent! School has been able to offer many extra-curricular activities for our children which helps with their learning in school and for example, our year 6 were able to enjoy their school residential to Lockerbie. We wish them all well as they settle into their new schools. Our new year 6 are also looking forward to their stay at, "Kingswood Colomendy" in Wales in October. We welcome all new pupils to the school family and pray that God enables them to feel safe, happy and to make new friends.

As parents and guardians, you need to know that you have some absolutely wonderful children who demonstrate the Christian vision of our school each and every day. I wish to thank you for your continued support and in enabling the children to be outwardly focused and to help others in need.

### **Here is a summary of the impact of your governing board during 2023 -2024:**

#### **Leading and developing the board:**

We are continuing to develop the skill set of our governors, who avail themselves of every training opportunity. This includes induction for new Governors, safeguarding updates and scheduled "Governor Away mornings" where we have more time to discuss and develop ideas for developing the school.

We value the presence of a Local Authority clerk at our meetings, who provides professional and legal advice, thus helping us to make rationale and thoughtful decisions. There have been many staff changes at the LA and their ongoing support is appreciated and their commitment to clerking and supporting our school.

**Presence in school and Monitoring:** Governors are in school on a regular basis, to monitor and speak with children about their experiences at Horwich Parish. We also hold, "getting to know Governors" events in Church from time to time. Each Governor is assigned to a committee, such as finance and staffing and School Improvement for example and a Full Governors meeting is held each term. Each Governor is also linked with a subject teacher and receives a termly report of their teaching.

#### **Various capital projects have been agreed and implemented:**

- On-going general school maintenance work.
- 5-year schedule of re-painting has been completed.
- Children's bike and scooter store now in use.
- Structural refurbishment of the school Hall, including removal of pillars.
- The school mural completed.
- Work completed on the bridge to key stage 1

#### **Future plans include:**

- New schedule of painting / work in place.
- Proactively applying for school premises grants to replace year 3 and 4 toilets as they become available (Due to the high volume of applications, we were unsuccessful this academic year).
- Funding repairs to the school roof (Old building).
- Developing the Lighthouse club and considering the possibility of providing a holiday club.

Finally, we as a governing body wish to assure you that we will continue to work for the benefit of every child attending Horwich Parish Church C.E. School as we believe it is a school to be very proud of. Every child should be given the opportunity to let their light shine.

Susan M. Baines JP.

Chair of Governors.