

SSCA Annual Governance Statement For Academic Year September 2018 to August 2019

This annual governance statement gives a brief overview of impact of the governing body over the last year. It is intentionally a brief summary, as activities are reported as they happen throughout the year via the school newsletter, school website and publication of the minutes from Governors meetings in the governor section of the school website. The governor section also contains details of the governors during this period, their attendance at meetings and their pecuniary interests, if any.

Attendance at Governors meetings during this period was 100%. The Governors have welcomed a new Head of School and a new co-opted governor. Governors continue to seek new members and if you feel you have something to offer, please contact the clerk on governance@andaras.org

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

The governors have supported the Head of School to ensure that the vision and ethos of the school is maintained, and the Improvement Plan identifies the key priorities to take the school in the right direction. Governors always keep the school vision and ethos in mind, and ensure they are content with the strategic direction and leadership capabilities when they visit. With a new Head it has been the perfect opportunity to review our vision and we have met as a complete team to share our way forward and establish our aspirations to ignite curiosity and develop capabilities for St Stephens moving forward. The school's top 3 risks have been analysed and mitigation put in place. The governors have encouraged and listened to parental feedback which has been very positive as illustrated in the most recent Parental Satisfaction Survey. They have endeavored to make themselves more 'known' and available via a range of events, e.g. parent / carers meetings.

Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation, the provision for all pupils, and the performance management of staff.

Through the school performance data, the governors are able to see how the children are performing and where there are issues that need to be addressed. The governors have challenged results and evidence and drilled into the reasons behind them. They have analysed attainment data with particular focus on reading and writing as well as analysing the numbers of and data for PPG and SEN children. The governors have confirmed and challenged provision for PPG children and that it is having an impact. The ARB provision and the transition of children between pre-school and school have been monitored carefully to embed the continuity between the different areas. Visible learning, learning powers and Maths Mastery is further integrated into everyday learning provision and a whole school focus on vocabulary acquisition is having a positive impact on the children's approach to challenges, self-belief and aspirations. Safeguarding and Pastoral support is a key priority for the school and is closely monitored and policies have continued to be reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

Pressure on school budgets continues to be greater than ever and is not confined to SSCA or the MAT. The MAT Directors set the budgets but the governors have still monitored the spending and have supported the Head of School when additional funds are required for key work such as infrastructure repair. We have ensured the building is safe with new secure doors, windows and necessary on-going maintenance such as painting. We have also been fortunate to secure funding for a new conservatory for the ARB and the updated ICT suite and computers alongside the purchase of the Accelerated Reader Program and upgrading the school library provision. Maintenance of the school building and the safety of the children has always been a priority alongside providing a school that will enhance future ambitions, ensuring our pupils are ready for the world beyond St Stephens.