**Annual Governance Statement 2020-2021**

This annual governance statement gives a brief overview of the activities of the governing body during this year. It is intentionally brief, as we always aim to report significant activities as they happen throughout the year and will do so through dojo and the governor blog on the school website. The attendance record and link roles for each governor can be found on the school website.

The NGA (National Governors Association) states that the role of the governing body is to provide strategic leadership and accountability in school. It has three key functions:

* Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
* Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
* Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

The last academic year certainly brought with it some unprecedented challenges with COVID-19 but it couldn’t take away from the highlight that was the OFSTED report! Unfortunately, we weren’t able to celebrate properly due to lockdown but it was a very well deserved result and we must thank the whole school community and, in particular Mrs Parker and her entire team for all the hard work both during the two years prior to the inspection and the continuing work to ensure the school maintains and improves on this high standard.

Governance Arrangements in Place and Remit of any Committees:

The full governing body (12 total, 3 vacancies at present) meets seven times a year and this has continued throughout the pandemic via zoom. Following our extensive work developing a school strategy plan, we have continued to work with Mrs Parker to ensure the school keeps travelling in the right strategic direction. This year the biggest challenge has been supporting the school throughout the coronavirus pandemic. It has genuinely been a year like no other but we couldn’t be more impressed with the way it has been handled by the whole school community. In spite of the pandemic, we have continued to hold the leadership of the school to account through our meetings, offering both challenge and support, and also ensuring the financial well-being of the school. We decide which functions of the Governing Body will be delegated to committees and also individual link roles. We discuss issues relating to the Curriculum and current and ongoing performance data in relation to key targets and areas of improvement. This year we have been grateful to have also been joined by both Mrs St. Hill and Mr Thirsk at some of our FGB meetings.

The Finance and Resources committee (4 governors) meets three times a year and

deals with:

* Finance. To draft and approve the budget each year; to work with Mrs Parker to ensure that the finances of the school are healthy during this challenging time whilst prioritising and maintaining a focus on the best possible provision of education for the school’s pupils; to establish and maintain an up to date 3 year financial plan and to ensure that the school operates within the Financial regulations of the City Council.
* Premises. To advise the Governing Body on priorities, including Health and Safety, for the maintenance and development of the school’s premises; to oversee arrangements for repairs and maintenance.
* Personnel. To draft and keep under review the staffing structure in consultation with the Head Teacher and the Finance Committee; To establish a Pay Policy for all categories of staff and to be responsible for its administration and review; To oversee the appointment procedure for all staff; To establish and review a Performance Management Policy for all staff

**Governor Training and Development**

As a Governing Body we are keen to use all of our skills to benefit St Clements to the greatest degree possible. We are all encouraged to access training to keep us up to date and improve our knowledge. We have all received Safeguarding training and have access to a wealth of other training and resources through online platforms. The Chair & Vice-Chair regularly attend the network/briefing meetings held by city council each term which have continued on zoom. The Governing Body undertakes a skills audit each year to ensure people’s skills are being utilised and appropriate training can be sourced if necessary. A number of staff have had input into past meetings to ensure we understand how the school and curriculum fit together at an operational level – for example, how data is collected, tracked and monitored.

**Governing Body Focus for 2021-2022**

As Governors, our main priority for this year is supporting the school through the COVID-19 recovery process. This will of course include looking at data & outcomes but will also prioritise the holistic recovery of the school. Although high standards for learning remain important to us, we believe that the wellbeing of both our staff & pupils is paramount as the pandemic has taken its toll on everybody.