

## **St Leonard's School Governing Board Vision**

As a Church School, St Leonard's provides love, care and support for all its families, nurturing children as individuals and as learners, so that they are able to become valuable citizens within wider society; preparing children for "life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)

### **School Ethos**

St. Leonard's Church of England Primary School works with our local community for the benefit of all its children and their families. We strive to provide a safe, happy and stimulating learning environment where children and adults alike treat each other with Love, Respect and Responsibility. A caring Christian ethos supports learning in order to realise children's potential, both as learners and as citizens. The school creates a positive moral framework, ensuring diversity is respected, and everyone is treated with fairness and tolerance. We aim to broaden children's horizons and expectations, builds resilience and self-confidence, and prepare children for their next steps in education and as members of British society. We aim that our pupils are proud of who they are and what they have achieved, have aspirations for their future, a can-do attitude, and a growth mindset. Above all, we teach children to embrace Life in all its Fullness.

### **School Values and Vision**

We expect all staff, pupils and parents to follow our School Values, which are based on teachings from the Bible:

- Love – "Love is patient, Love is kind." 1 Corinthians 13 v 4
- Respect – "Show proper respect to everyone." 1 Peter 2 v 17
- Responsibility – "In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well." Romans 12 v 6

These values and the School's Christian vision are shared through assemblies, collective worship and lessons, and are embedded in the whole ethos of our School and the way we behave towards one another. While a Church school, we welcome all faiths and backgrounds equally, and work to ensure children grow without prejudice.

### **Effective Governance**

We will ensure the Governing Board carries out its responsibilities based on the following key actions and principles:

- Establishing the strategic direction of the school by setting clear values and objectives
- Ensuring accountability by monitoring the school's performance, and holding leaders to account
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school, and ensuring money is well spent
- Having the confidence to hold courageous conversations in the interests of the children at our school
- Knowing our school: the staff, the parents, the children, and the community
- Showing commitment to ask challenging questions, attend meetings, and be proactive
- Seeking continuous improvement in our approach, and ensuring the Governing Board has the training to carry out its responsibilities
- Building strong relationships with, and listening to, all our stakeholders
- Being open, approachable, effective, and responsive

## **Governance Priorities**

As a Governing Board, our key areas of focus over the next 3 years, which reflect the objectives in the School Improvement Plan, are as follows:

### 1. Improving our Results, and Implementing a Broad Curriculum

Progress in all areas (EYFS, Key Stages 1 and 2) will be assessed against targets set each year by the Senior Leadership Team, and National Standards. We periodically monitor and analyse progress and attainment, using national tracking tools to benchmark the School. Teaching and Learning committee meetings enable Governors to see how the school is developing a broad, exciting, and engaging curriculum. Pupil Progress meetings help Governors to understand and question the progress of subgroups of our school cohort, and identify School learning priorities.

### 2. Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs

Governors are focused on helping children with special educational needs to make the same progress as all children on their journey through school and in life. Governors ensure the needs of these children are understood and met by monitoring whole-school training, and evaluating the impact of actions that support each child's learning.

### 3. Tackling Disadvantage

Governors will work to remove barriers and create opportunities for children from all backgrounds. We support families facing challenges, working together to encourage and nurture aspirations. Governors monitor the effectiveness of use of Sports and Pupil Premium funding, and actively seek to achieve social enrichment through School Trips and residential, outdoor learning, extra-curricular activities and sports.

### 4. Widening Community Engagement

Governors work to ensure we have a welcoming School community that is inclusive and embraces diversity. We want to ensure all our parent / carer communities are able to fully support our children with the School's learning goals; to do this, Governors will promote the School profile within the Community, identifying Community Projects that we can help with, and Leaders we can work with. We will use our monitoring work, School visits, newsletters, the PTFA, Parent Ambassadors, and the School Council to promote this message.

### 5. Leadership and Communication

We will provide an open, responsive, considerate and challenging body that supports the Senior Leadership Team of the School in their decision making, while focusing on standards and school improvement. We will ensure a robust and secure financial situation for the School. We will work to improve communication within the School, and with parents, ensuring we have measures in place to listen, and to address challenges where they arise.

### 6. Professional Development and Wellbeing of our Staff

We want all our staff to be proud to part of our School, and to have a positive impact. We will promote teamwork, and be aware of the career aspirations of our staff and their training needs. We will promote work-life balance, and provide opportunities to discuss both positives and concerns. We will provide feedback to staff on actions that affect their professional working environment. We will promote a continuous review of all School facilities.