**Governors’ Statement –Sept 2017**

St Peter’s, being a Catholic School in the Diocese of Shrewsbury, is dedicated to providing the best education possible for all the children in school, rooted in the teachings and gospel values of the Catholic Church.

The three central functions of governing boards are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its

 money is well spent. *(DfE)*

As in all schools, the first priority for the Governing Board is to ensure that our pupils achieve the best they are capable of and make the best possible progress, in a nurturing learning environment, where each child is valued and all families are welcomed.

The are 12 governors:

1. 7 foundation governors (appointed by the Diocese of Shrewsbury)
2. 2 parent governors (elected by parents & guardians)
3. the headteacher
4. 1 staff governor
5. 1 local authority governor (approved by Tameside MBC)

In 2015, Mr Rick Gould, the deputy headteacher, was appointed as associate governor with full voting rights, having previously attended as an observer only. We believe it is important that Mr Gould is close to the shaping of the strategic role of the governing body and can bring his leadership experience and curricular expertise to bear directly on our task at the termly meetings of the full Governing Board.

We were pleased to welcomed two new governors during the past year.

After Mr Peter Garside stood down, in July 2016, having served as Foundation Governor for 16 years, Mr Chris Horrocks was appointed, by the diocese ,as his replacement. Mr Horrocks is a longstanding St Peter’s parishioner.

In December 2016 our staff governor & school caretaker, Mr Gez Delaney, retired. After a long career in electrical engineering, Mr Delaney served as caretaker for 8 years here at St Peter’s. Miss Sarah Holland then stood as staff governor & was duly elected by her colleagues.

To carry out their duties and responsibilities governors are expected to evaluate their role in the life of the school and review their effectiveness and impact. This statement is part of that process.

**Governor Training**

All governors are required to maintain & improve their knowledge & understanding of the standards & working of the school & the wider issues affecting education in England. Training courses & regular updates are provided by the Diocese of Shrewsbury & by Tameside Governors Services, both in person & online. Our governors regularly access these opportunities.

**Clerking**

We pay for the services of a professional clerk from the Tameside Clerking Service. Mrs Lyn Stacey has been our excellent clerk for four years & has been an invaluable source of advice, information & clarification – as well as producing very clear & accurate minutes. Sadly for us she has now retired. We wish her every happiness in a long retirement.

Listed here are examples of the activities, processes and systems that contribute to the effective leadership and monitoring of ongoing school improvement.

**School Improvement Plan (SIP)**

The School Improvement Plan is presented for approval by the headteacher at the first Full Governing Board meeting in October. The Governing Board receives updates from the headteacher on the progress of its implementation at the subsequent termly meetings and receives curricular updates from subject coordinators on a pre-planned cycle.

**Curriculum & Standards**

The Curriculum & Standards Committee meets termly. This committee scrutinizes progress data for each class in school and receives reports from the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher & from time to time, other staff, on curricular progress & developments. Though there are specific governors assigned to this committee, any governors are welcome to attend.

Assessment data is presented and explained so that governors are able to establish and maintain a firm grasp of the standards and progress achieved on a class by class basis by children throughout the school, giving an opportunity to governors to question and challenge the school’s leaders on the impact of their work and to compare the school’s outcomes against all other and similar schools in Tameside and nationally.

On planned cycles, this committee also receives curricular reports from subject coordinators and reviews and updates policies.

**Financial Management & Monitoring**

The Finance and Personnel Committee meets termly, immediately before the termly Full Governing Body meeting, to review the impact of financial planning and to scrutinize and plan the allocation of resources for the current and future years. This includes budget costs of materials, of the physical environment of the school, of running costs and staffing costs and salaries.

**Other Committees**

Other committees which meet during the year are:

* Premises and Security Committee
* Admissions Committee
* Pay Committee
* Headteacher Performance Management and Review

There are committees which need to meet only as the need arises; these are:

* Discipline, Grievance & Capability & Appeals Committees (staff)
* Pupil Discipline Committee (pupil exclusions)
* Complaints Committee (parental complaints); *this would convene only after the Complaints Policy procedures have been exhausted.*
* Pay Appeals Committee
* Appointments Committee
* Headteacher Appointment Committee (this may well include all governors)

**Governor Visits To School**

Many governors are regular, and in some cases weekly, visitors to school for various purposes. All governors are encouraged and are expected to be familiar with the school, to see the school at work. This would include visits to lessons to see good teaching & learning for themselves, to see the physical learning environment of the school and to liaise with individual staff for specific information sharing purpose, for instance for Special Needs, Safeguarding, subject responsibilities or Pupil Premium programmes and outcomes.

**Governor Professional Expertise**

Although Governors work entirely as volunteers on behalf of the school, the governors have employment backgrounds in finance, sales, IT, education & training, business & local authority administration & public service management & leadership. Thus they bring a wide and varied range of skills & experience to the task of leading and monitoring. Many governors are current or former parents of the school, which is indicative of a high degree of understanding, commitment & loyalty.

**Staff Recruitment**

Governors participate in all staff appointments. The more senior the post, the greater the number & degree of governor involvement.

Appointments processes in all cases adhere strictly to Safer Recruitment principles and requirements.