



Bishop Stopford's School
Governing Body Annual Statement 2020.21 and Strategic Priorities
2021.22

Vision

Believe Strive Succeed

1 Corinthians 12:12

'the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body'

Our vision is to provide an outstanding, inclusive and aspirational education for all our children. We believe that everyone in our community is capable of achieving beyond their expectations by living each day in all its fullness, spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and morally. We are underpinned by deep rooted values of respect, consideration, loyalty, responsibility and success.

The governing body agreed the following **strategic priorities for 2020.21**

1. To support and hold school leaders to account so that:
 - The risks associated with coronavirus are effectively assessed and managed
 - Wellbeing of members of the school community is paramount
 - The quality of education narrows existing gaps and addresses the impact of disadvantage and inequality
2. To increase student recruitment to Y7 and Y12
3. To operate within our LA agreed financial management plan

Supporting and holding school leaders to account

Governing body and committee minutes and reports show Covid management as a standing item. The school was able to remain open and make required provision throughout the year.

Student and staff wellbeing was at the heart of leaders' decisions throughout the year. Feedback from surveys and more anecdotally shows that members of the community valued the care and attention given to wellbeing.

Leaders have maintained the focus on curriculum development so that provision meets students' needs, including recovery from the impact of lost learning during the pandemic. The diagnosis and therapy approach is central. Teacher assessed GCSE and A level grades show that good progress has been maintained in narrowing gaps.

Student recruitment

The established EAL provision continues to increase numbers in all year groups, particularly in KS4, and we value the local authority's support for this. Y11 EAL students are able to progress to appropriate courses in our 6th form, and this continues to have a positive impact on Y12 numbers.

Despite the limitations of the pandemic leaders have continued to promote the school's achievements within the community. The external factors over which the school has little control remain the key influence on recruitment to Y7, for example changes in the population projections and the opening of new secondary schools. This remains a key priority.

Financial management

The local authority has continued to support the school's long term financial management plan. Meaningful dialogue about long term financial viability takes place through half-termly meetings between LA officers, the diocesan board, Chair of Governors, Chair of Resources Committee, Headteacher and Business Manager. The Resources Committee has continued to monitor the budget carefully to ensure that the school remains within the limits set in the plan. Significant savings have been achieved in the 2020.21 financial year, enabling the deficit to be reduced by over £400 000.

Strategic priorities for 2021.22

1. To develop a 3 to 5 year strategy
2. To increase student recruitment to Y7 and Y12
3. To operate within our agreed financial management plan

September 2021