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| **2025 Annual Governance Statement for the Academy Council of**  **Green Lane Church of England Primary School, Barnard Castle** | |
| In accordance with the Government’s requirements the 3 core strategic functions of Green Lane CE School’s Academy Council 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. | |
| **Governance arrangements** | The Academy Council of the school was constituted in 2023 following Green Lane CE Primary School’s academization as part of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust (DNDLT) |
| **Attendance record of Governors** | Councillors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not quorate (the number of councillors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). |
| **The work that we have done in the Academy Council** | **2025 Summary**: The last two years have been dominated by the school’s conversion to an academy as part of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust (DNDLT). This decision was taken following an extensive consultation process with parents and carers, as well as with other stakeholders. The school joined the academy because school leaders wanted to increase the amount of support on offer to help the school navigate its way following a challenging period during covid.  The school has invested much time and resources into supporting pupil and staff wellbeing with the Academy Council supporting moves to expand the pastoral support offered by the Deputy Headteacher, in particular with the training of key staff members in Nurture Provision.  **Curriculum and Performance**: The council has focused intensely on the Character Education element of school improvement, ensuring that subject leads weave the core values and the teaching of them within each of the curriculum areas – with the intention of giving Green Lane a unique perspective as a school with the aim of becoming a fully-fledged Character Education school by 2026.  There has also been an opportunity to reflect on the monitoring and evaluation of teaching within Green Lane and the council have helped develop a new model based around helping the children to ‘know more and remember more’. This was evidenced by the council in a book scrutiny and a meeting with the geography and history subject lead in February 2025. The new monitoring model will move away from termly whole lesson observations towards a more regular focused classroom review that involves tracking pupil progress after each lesson.  *The council’s main aims moving forward are to help staff develop a strong experience rich curriculum with subject leads both supported and challenged in a constructive way, so that pupils at Green Lane are even better prepared for the next stage of their education.*  **Finance, Premises, and Personnel**: The council oversees the school’s budgets (including those for specific projects or purposes – Sports Premium, Pupil Premium) and notes and challenges any variations reported. It has oversight of major building/premises matters.  *The council’s main aims moving forward are to ensure that funding is used to support pupil learning over the next few years so that catchup following the pandemic is as high as it can be.*  **Christian Ethos**: The school works hard to promote a positive working, learning, respectful, caring environment for its pupils, staff and volunteers. The council supported the school during its 2019 Church of England (SIAMs) inspection playing a major part in its achievement of the top grading – Excellent. The council has also conducted a number of learning walks over the past three years aimed at embedding the school’s core Christian values and seeing its mission statement from St John’s Gospel brought to life, it has also introduced a termly service of Holy Communion for the school to which members of St Mary’s congregation have been invited.  *The council’s main aims moving forward are to ensure that the school continues down the Character Education path – carrying out further learning walks which look at the improvements coming to the school environment and being a critical friend to the Headteacher and school staff as they seek to increase the opportunities for personal growth and development within Green Lane’s curriculum.* |
| **Contact Details** | The Academy Council welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Academy Council c/o the school office. |