

Governors Annual Statement

Guidance from the Department for Education requires that Governing Bodies make an annual statement to parents.

The Governing Body at our school endeavours to fulfil the role defined by Government supported by the Local Authority. In doing so we hope that we can help to make our school the very best it can be for the benefit of our children, and be even better today than we were yesterday.

This statement will explain how we have fulfilled our responsibilities, including:

- the governance arrangements that are in place, including the remit of any committees;
- the attendance record of individual governors at board and committee meetings; and an assessment of the effectiveness and impact of the board and any committees with details of any particular challenges that have arisen .

The Governor role is intended to be strategic in nature while being a “critical friend” to the Head teacher and the school leadership team who are responsible for the day to day operational running of the school. In reviewing the way the school works, the Governors have gained an enormous respect for all the staff in the school. The amount of effort, care for our children, and “going the extra mile” we see on a regular basis from all our staff, is nothing short of inspirational.

It is not only academic progress that is in evidence in the school, but all the clubs and other activities that show what a broad and fulfilling education our children benefit from in our school.

We would like to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to all our staff for the level of effort and care they contribute.

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body is made up of 14 members plus 1 Associate member. The current governors are listed in Annex 1 and all have the same overall responsibilities; they do not represent their appointers, but are intended to be representative of them. Our agenda planner helps us

to ensure all the topics we are required to discuss each year are covered.

Committees

We have 2 sub-committees that perform much of the detailed work in accordance with their terms of reference, as outlined in annexe 1.

Annex 2 lists the attendance record for each of the governors. Many of us are not educational specialists but bring experience and skills from other professions that help us together to form an effective governing body. Attendance at meetings is only part of the role. We also talk to staff and parents and children about different aspects of the curriculum and school life . All governors attempt to spend time in school each year, attend events as appropriate and attend identified training to support their role.

Effectiveness and Impact of the Board

This has been the main focus of our governing body over the last school year. We have been keen to develop skills in understanding how our children are learning, being assessed; and making progress; and how that progress compares to other schools locally and nationally. We think that working with school staff in this way means we can ensure your children get the very best educational experience possible. Performance data of the school reflects that this is proving to be a successful partnership. In July we undertook training in Strategic Planning that resulted in the development of a shared Vision and Strategic direction between Governors and School staff. This will enable us to monitor how the school is performing in the key areas of Achievement of pupils, Quality of teaching , Behaviour and Teaching, and Leadership and Management. (see annexe 3 and 4)

We have also been closely involved in the building work for reception children, and improvements to office space and kitchens. Very importantly to the children we have encouraged and supported Forest School and outdoor learning activities, including the improved play areas in the nursery and the Trim trail ...which the children love.

Challenges

The main challenges we have addressed this school year include:

- Recruitment to the governing body. There have been a number of changes to the governing body over the past year , and we currently have vacancies for a Local Authority and a Coopted governor . We welcome our two new Parent governors this term. We have a new Clerk to the governors, who is already proving invaluable in helping us fulfil our role. We are also actively exploring more ways for governors to engage with parents and staff in time effective ways.
- Finally, there have been disappointments in slippage in time scales for the new Reception block, which ideally would have been ready for the September start., and has meant staff have had to revise plans at fairly short notice.

2015-2016

This year we will be concerned to implement the strategic vision monitoring tool, further develop our use of data to interrogate attainment and achievement of pupils , widen the full governing body's understanding of Safeguarding and SEND reforms, and explore new ways to engage with staff and parents.

Conclusion

I hope that this statement has been useful and any comments would be gratefully received.

Suggestions are welcome at any time through the school email address or our office

Christine Martin

Joan Power

Chair of Governors

Vice Chair of Governors