

Annual Governance Statement 2017/2018

This year has been a tremendously successful year for our school, with the best SAT's results we have seen for a long time. The school continues to thrive and develop working together as a team. This is the first year we have functioned without a Deputy Headteacher so the Senior Leadership Team have been assigned new tasks to ensure the school continues in our strategic direction.

The core strategic functions of governance are as follows:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupil, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its budget is well spent

The ways we ensure we are effective in carrying out the above functions are detailed below:

Governor Training and Development

All governors are expected to carry out regular training to ensure they fully understand the role and are adequately equipped to carry out the necessary tasks. We have a development governor who oversees this as well as looks for any gaps in skills and seeks to fill those gaps, either through further training or through targeted recruitment. We comply with our Governor Development Plan which states that we expect the governors to do at least one training session a year to develop their skills.

The local authority has given the governors training on the following topics:

- Introduction to Governance
- Headteacher appraisal
- Finance
- Pupil Premium Grant
- Effective Chairing
- Ofsted
- School Performance Data
- Safeguarding
- Leadership Forum

Comments from recent OFSTED report:

“Governors are well informed and committed to driving the school forward. They have recently reviewed their effectiveness and changed much of their way of working to become more active in the day-to-day activities of the school. They have a clear grasp of the school’s strengths and what still needs to improve for the school to become outstanding. The Chair leads the Governing Board in analysing the school’s performance and comparing it with schools nationally.”

Full Governing Board Meetings

Four meetings with all the governors and the Headteacher, following a strict agenda which ensures all statutory activities are undertaken, including review of policies. This is also an opportunity for the members of the governing board to challenge the Headteacher and all challenges are recorded in the minutes to the meetings, which are available to request via the school office.

The Headteacher reports to the board regarding the School Development Plan, Termly Plan and all data showing monitoring and evaluation against the key performance indicators.

Comments from recent OFSTED report:

“Governors know the school very well and contribute to formulating the school’s values and aims. They challenge the school rigorously and its performance.”

Monitoring and Evaluation

Governors receive termly information in the form of the Headteacher Termly Plan. This report includes performance data; however, we know the importance of getting into school during the day and seeing what is happening ourselves. Governor training days have helped us learn what to look out for to ensure robust scrutiny of teaching and pupil attainment and progress. Governors have attended learning walks, progress meetings and book scrutinies. We have governors linked to each class, who then visit their class twice a year to ensure performance, impact and pupil outcomes. We as governors also regularly do pupil voice.

Comments from recent OFSTED report:

“Recently appointed ‘Class Linked Governors’ report back to the governing board on how effective the newly developed National Curriculum is, and how it is helping to prepare young people for life in modern Britain.”

“Governors are well informed about the quality of teaching. They frequently visit the school to find out for themselves how well it is performing. Governors set the Headteacher targets and assure themselves that teachers’ appraisals are carried out effectively.”

Personnel and Recruitment

Start of the new school year saw Shirley Wilkinson re-elected as Chair of Governors to start her second term in that role. Simon Bamford was elected as Vice Chair. We entered the year with a parent vacancy, which was filled by Gary Teague. We also had a co-opted governor vacancy following the resignation of Gail Jugg after 13 years as a Vice Chair at Long Lane Primary School, which we have filled with Edward Barham. We are also recruiting for a new LA governor as Simon Hunt has resigned after 11 years with Long Lane Primary School as our Safeguarding governor.

Financial Performance

The Resource Committee is made up of James Mortimore (Chair), Shirley Wilkinson, Peter Thorne (Headteacher), Sarah Sarsfield (BSM) and Edward Barham. Monthly meetings ensure that the financial running of the school is under constant scrutiny. The Resource Committee report back to the Full Governing Board on a termly basis.

Comments from recent OFSTED report:

“Governors carefully consider all spending, including the pupil premium, and have seen impact in improved outcomes for pupils eligible for this funding. They are proactive in managing the performance of staff effectively and rigorously, ensuring that the salary progression of staff is justified by a sound evidence base.”

OFSTED

This March 2018 we would be expecting OFSTED to inspect our school. We as governors are ready for the inspection and looking forward to welcoming them and will be delighted to talk to the inspectors. We as governors are proud of our school and would like to show off all the outstanding aspects of our school.

Shirley Wilkinson
March 2018