

# **Governors Annual Report to Parents**

## **Reviewing Year 2022/ 2023**



The Governing Body is made up of a group of people with a range of skills and experience. Our Governors work together as a team to support our school and the local community. We are always keen to welcome new members who feel that they have the skills and expertise to support our school and its pupils.

We have been pleased to welcome one new member of our Governing Body in the Autumn term of 2022 – Jamie Fletcher.

The three main functions of a school's Governing Body are:

- 1. Setting the strategic direction for the school**
- 2. Holding the Headteacher and staff members to account for the educational performance of the school**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school**

### **Setting the strategic direction for the school**

The priorities for the school in 2022-2023 were:

- Improving the outcomes of all pupils across the school with a focus on writing.
- To develop the curriculum and subject leaders.
- To review and refine the RSHE curriculum and resources.
- Develop the EYFS indoor and outdoor areas.

These priorities are all included in the school development plan which also includes a section for Governors. In our first meeting in the Autumn term, we made an action plan based on these priorities and identified actions for the academic year in line with the school monitoring programme.

In October 2022 one of our Governors came into school to gain an understanding of views on writing. As a result of this school purchased a new handwriting scheme and introduced

spelling logs in books and interactive writing workshops. Pupil voice and discussions in school with pupils have become more targeted over the year with direct links to the school priorities.

Governors have attended school to support the learning environment in early years, with the aim to enable the children to access equipment and storage.

In January 2023 a well-being survey was issued to all staff by our chair and vice chair, this was to gain a voice from the staff in school. It has positive results, and all suggestions were taken on board.

Governors were present at the open evening in the summer term, for our new Reception starters and were available for any questions and discussions.

This year our Vice Chair of Governors has developed their understanding around supporting looked after pupils in school and has attended training with our deputy Headteacher, John Newton.

### **Holding the Headteacher and staff members to account**

As Governors we support and challenge the decisions made about your child's education. We monitor school improvement through regular visits into school to meet with school leaders, attend Governors and in school training, review whole school policies, check school appraisal systems, observe pupils' attitude to learning, and seek the views of staff and children through interviews and questionnaires.

Governors regularly check that safeguarding procedures and policies are in place and being adhered to. The Safeguarding lead Governor checks that all adults, including volunteers, coaches and Governors have an up-to-date enhanced DBS check.

*'Leaders have established effective routines for noticing, reporting and acting upon any safeguarding concerns.'*

Ofsted 2022

Performance data, exclusions and attendance is regularly shared with us as Governors and gives us a good understanding of what is happening in school.

*"Whilst data is presented to the Governing Body we ask questions of the Headteacher about any trends that we can see and about any groups of children that are not meeting age-related and or / progress expectations."*

(Charlotte Hilton Governor)

The Health and Safety Committee within the Governing Body have checked that risk assessments are in place and have completed an annual Health and Safety audit.

In June 2022 we were inspected by OFSTED, we are very proud of the outcome and the feedback from the inspector.

*'Governors understand their roles and responsibilities and have an accurate view of the school's current performance'.*

Ofsted 2022

### **Overseeing the financial performance of the school**

Governors ensure each financial year that the budget reflects the priorities of the School Development Plan for the year ahead. The small committee of Governors with finance experience take on this role. The Headteacher regularly updates these Governors on the financial situation of the school and meetings are held throughout the year with the school's finance officer.

*"As a member of the Finance and Personnel committee I am able to ask questions about budget allocations and grants such as pupil premium, sports and the covid recovery grants. We are also involved with ensuring that the right staff resources are in place to ensure children are safe, happy and reaching their potential within our allocated budget."*

Melissa Jones Vice Chair

*"As a Governor, along with the Headteacher, I reviewed and allocated the PPG funds to best meet the needs of the children within school"*

Charlotte Hilton Governor

The Governing Body has worked with the Headteacher to check that the school premises are safe and attended all statutory safeguarding training.

This year we have had great community support and Governor representation at the school EYFS garden project, Christmas Event, Charity Bake Sale, Pop UK, Family Picnic and Sports Event and Summer Fayre.

We have had active involvement in the recruitment of our new teacher Miss Kang and have continued to have regular communication with our Headteacher, Mrs Cowan to challenge, question, and offer our support. We have continued to update our own knowledge around areas of the School Development Plan and local education initiative that are relevant to the children in our school.