

**Bullion Lane Primary School
Annual Governance statement for the Governing Body
September 2018**

Strategic Functions

The governing body is strongly committed to the children, staff and parents of Bullion Lane Primary School to ensure high standards are maintained. They do this by:

- Making sure there are high expectations for pupils' achievement and behaviour
- Setting a clear strategic direction for the work of the school
- Holding the head teacher and senior leaders to account for educational performance
- Making sure performance management systems are robust and rigorous
- Continually evaluating the financial performance of the school to make sure money is well spent

Constitution of the Governing Body

Parent Governors – elected by parents

Mrs C Clifford
Mr J Wilkinson
Mrs E Alderson

LA Governor – appointed by LA

Mrs K Nichol

Staff Governor – elected by staff

Mrs D Walton

Headteacher Governor

Miss S Barningham

Co-opted Governors – appointed by Governing body

Mr J Bailey – Chair of Governors
Mrs K Smith
Mrs J Stephenson
Mrs E Hirst-Dean
Mrs J Trewick

Associate Members – appointed by Governing body

Mrs M Lloyd
Mrs K Ferguson

Associate Members having voting rights on all committees they sit on

Governance Arrangements

The full governing body meet every term to discuss their role and functions. There is an effective committee structure in place and outcomes from these meetings inform the termly governing body meetings.

Committee Structure - Role and Responsibilities

Standards & Accountability

Membership: Mr J Bailey, Mrs J Stephenson, Mrs C Clifford, Mr J Wilkinson

We aim to:

- Challenge the head teacher and senior leaders about the performance of the school
- Monitor the school's evidence for self-evaluation
- Evaluate the accuracy of the schools' judgements about itself
- Agree school improvement priorities
- Evaluate the progress of the school since the time of the last inspection
- Review national initiatives and consider the relevance for the school
- Ensure the curriculum meets statutory requirements and is appropriate, well balanced and helps to prepare pupils for their next steps in education
- Ensure the safeguarding of children is of the very highest quality

Finance, Buildings & Personnel

Membership: Mr J Bailey, Mrs E Dean, Mrs M Lloyd, Mrs K Smith, Mrs D Walton,

We aim to:

- Consider all matters received from the Local Authority relating to the financial aspects of the Authority's scheme for the Financing of Schools
- Receive actual budget share and agree a budget plan
- Check the annual accounts of all voluntary funds held by the school
- Major/Minor Improvements and repairs and maintenance
- Purchase and Disposal of Furniture and Equipment
- Health and Safety Issues
- Staffing Structure and costings
- Review Temporary Contracts on an annual basis

First/Pay Review

Membership: Mr J Bailey, Mr J Wilkinson, Mrs E Dean

We aim to:

- Act in accordance with the Teachers policy to include matters relating to the determination of additional responsibility points, regradings, recruitment points and the annual review including the Headteacher and Deputy Headteachers performance review/targets.
- Review the performance management of senior leaders and staff
- Review the pay of senior leaders and staff
- Staff Discipline, Grievance and Ill-health matters
- Reducing staffing establishments

Appeals

Membership: Mrs K Nichol, Mrs K Smith, Mrs J Stephenson

We aim to:

- Hear appeals relating to pay, discipline, grievance, ill-health and staff reduction matters

Curriculum

Membership: Mr J Bailey, Mrs C Clifford, Mrs K Ferguson, Mrs Lloyd, Mrs K Nichol,
We aim to:

- Check arrangements for staff review are in place and being developed
- Discuss pupil exclusions
- Make recommendations to the Governing body and review the school's curriculum statement and policies as required in the light of the LA Curriculum statement and statutory obligations regarding National Curriculum.
- In conjunction with staff, provide information about how the curriculum is taught, evaluated and resourced.
- Review the policy and provision and recommendations for sex education.
- Monitor and review information about school performance and reporting to parents according to statutory requirements.
- Contribute to the School Development Plan.

Parental complaints to be dealt with by the full Governing Body.

Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body

The Governing Body are very proud of Bullion Lane Primary School. It has made very good progress over the last seven years, mainly because of improved leadership and management. Staff work exceptionally well together and there is a very good team spirit. Children are happy in school and work conscientiously. Achievement has improved significantly, and all groups of pupils are now making very good progress.

In 2012 when the school was inspected, it was judged to require improvement. A great deal of effort was put in by everyone to ensure the school made quick progress. Consequently, in January 2014 the school was judged to be good with some outstanding features.

We are now working hard to make sure all aspects of the school's work are outstanding. For example:

- The school's action plan is clear and focused on the right priorities for improvement. It is shared with all members of staff so there is clarity of direction.
- Pupil progress is monitored each term. The head teacher is asked to report termly on the progress of each class, different groups and individuals. Discussion on strategies for improving pupils' progress is continuous. Any issues that are identified are tackled immediately and intervention is put into place.
- The performance of Year 2 and 6 pupils is monitored rigorously. Careful attention to this has resulted in a very good trend of improvement over time. At both key stages, achievement is at least above average. The gap between boys and girls is minimal and those pupils who receive additional funding through the Pupil Premium are making very good progress.
- Governors use the Ofsted Inspection Framework to judge the school's overall performance. This format is useful to help us evaluate the quality of leadership, teaching and learning. Governors have a very good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses.
- We have appointed 'lead' governors for each subject or aspect of work. This helps to improve the effectiveness of monitoring, assessment of the curriculum and the strategic direction of the school. Our knowledge of the school has improved further, and this helps to identify key actions for improvement.

- Staff have good opportunities to engage in professional development. These are provided in school through the work of the leading practitioner or outside of school through careful selection of appropriate courses.
- Attendance is improving over time. It is now broadly in line with the national average. On occasions we do have some problems with parents taking children on holiday during term time. We urge our parents not to do this.
- We support the school to further develop 'British Values' and to celebrate the culture of what being 'British' means to them. Children are given excellent opportunities to debate current issues. They respect the views and opinions of their friends and enjoy talking about different topics. The process of election onto the school council is well contested and fair. Pupils fully understand the need to vote and the way to apply the democratic rule.
- The lead governor for PE regularly meets with the PE subject leader to make sure funding is being spent wisely. A range of traditional and other sporting activities are offered to all children. They enthusiastically take part and enjoy physical activity. This can be seen during the school day when children have access to the 'Timber Trail'.
- Regular policy reviews are planned about the Governing Body's statutory obligations and curriculum development policy reviews are undertaken on a scheduled plan.
- The school's budget is managed very effectively. It is monitored regularly so that money is well spent. This careful monitoring has ensured we respond quickly to any deficits.
- Maintaining the fabric of the building has caused significant additional work. The building is old and requires frequent improvement. This creates dirt, mess and disruption. The head teacher has had to project manage many of the improvements and this has taken significant time. Staff have had to tolerate classrooms being dis-organised and have had to put in extra time to ensure classrooms are prepared and ready for children to learn in. This is an indication of the hard-working staff we have at Bullion Lane.
- All members of staff are committed to the children in their care. They deliver a stimulating and interesting curriculum. They do this by being creative. Children respond by being active and eager learners. Teaching focuses on developing children's key basic skills as well as developing their understanding of history, geography, PE, the arts and music. As a Governing Body we want all children to be successful. We strive to achieve this through high levels of challenge and support to staff so that each child's experience in school is of the highest quality. We confidently believe this is being achieved.
- There are many extra-curricular activities. The performing arts club has developed quickly over the last seven years. Many children are keen to join the club and become active performers on stage. This helps to develop their confidence and self-esteem. Performances at Christmas and at the end of the summer term are very well attended by parents who show their appreciation by vigorously clapping and singing along to the songs.
- The head teacher, senior leaders and staff work very well together. There is highly effective team work. The Governing Body celebrates the wider team approach that involves children, parents, staff and the wider community. We value everyone's help and participation in the work to further improve our children's education.
- The safeguarding of children is of the very highest priority. We make sure children have rich opportunities to learn about the dangers of being unsafe. We regularly challenge the head teacher to produce evidence to demonstrate that safeguarding requirements are being fully met. Vulnerable pupils are well cared for through regular 'team around the child' meetings. The recent updates of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' have been fully shared with staff and governors.

- The culture of the school is very positive. The head teacher clearly communicates the school's direction as reflected in the improvement plan.
- The behaviour of pupils is very good. On occasions a minority of children do not conform to the school's high standards for conduct. Sanctions are imposed if children do not follow the school's procedures. Governors fully support the head teacher's firm approach when dealing with these issues.

The successes of the school are primarily due to the work of our enthusiastic and professional staff. The head teacher works tirelessly to ensure the needs of all children are met. She ensures that everyone works together effectively by communicating her vision very clearly. The very good deputy head teacher and senior leaders are keen to support this direction. They contribute fully to the life of the school.

Conclusion

We hope that this review of governance has been informative and helpful. We are pleased to receive any comments you may have. Please forward them to Mr John Bailey, Chair of Governors at Bullion Lane Primary School