

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Gorseybrigg Primary School To July 2017

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing boards, the three core strategic functions of Gorseybrigg Primary School Governing Board 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.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance arrangements

The Governing Board of Gorseybrigg Primary School is made up of: 2 staff Governors, 4 Co-opted Governors, 3 Parent Governors and an LA Governor as detailed in the table below:

| Governor | Category | Term office expiry date |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Jill Andrews (Vice chair) | Local Authority | 26-08-18 |
| Hilary Bradbury | Staff | 19-10-19 |
| Hilary Clift | Co-opted | 19-10-19 |
| Mandy Fleming | Parent | 08-10-19 |
| Ben Fletcher | Parent | 08-10-19 |
| Sarah Hale | Parent | 19-11-19 |
| Marilyn Hedley | Co-opted | 30-08-19 |
| Pat Taylor | Co-opted | 19-10-19 |
| Wendy Temple (Chair) | Co-opted | 31-08-19 |
| Nancy White | Head teacher (Staff) | N/A |

In order to ensure effective Governance and the success of the school, our Governors have a wide range of skills and experience, including:

- A commitment to improving education for all pupils.
- Experience of professional leadership.
- Ability to analyse data.
- Financial management.
- Links with the local community and local businesses.
- Working or volunteering with young people.
- An understanding of special educational needs.

The Governing Board has a programme of meetings throughout the school year, and a committee structure that focuses on specific area of governance.

Attendance record of Governors

A record is kept by the Clerk to the Governing Board of Governor's attendance at meetings; details of attendance can be found in the table below. Meetings need to be 'quorate' to ensure that decisions can be made.

| Governor | Full Governing Board meetings attended | Committee meetings attended |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Jill Andrews (Vice chair) | 7/8 | 11/15 |
| Hilary Bradbury | 7/8 | 4/4 |
| Hilary Clift | 8/8 | 4/4 |
| Mandy Fleming | 7/8 | 8/10 |
| Ben Fletcher | 7/8 | 6/7 |
| Sarah Hale | 7/8 | 3/4 |
| Marilyn Hedley | 8/8 | 7/8 |
| Pat Taylor | 8/8 | 17/17 |
| Wendy Temple (Chair) | 8/8 | 14/15 |
| Nancy White | 8/8 | 20/21 |

The work we have done in our committees and in the Governing Board meetings during the past 12 months:

- The Staffing Committee has continued to review staff performance management targets.
- A new MMS appointed by the Staffing Committee, and the approval of several relief staff for MMS cover has meant lunch time supervision has been enhanced.
- Maths intervention in Y6 and Y2 has been delivered by qualified teachers following approval by the Staffing Committee.
- The School Improvement Committee carefully reviewed the Cohort Tracking Charts for Y1-Y6 and discussed any concerns with progress.
- A Walk-through to consider maths resources throughout the school was carried out in March 2017, alongside the Improvement Partner for our school.
- The School Improvement Committee approved the challenging targets set by the Head for pupil attainment and progress.
- A PSHE observation was carried out by a Governor and Caroline Dowse in February 2017. A suggested improvement for a PSHE display in each class has been widely adopted in school.
- The Safeguarding and Health & Safety Committee has adopted an updated model Safeguarding Policy from the LA and all Governors and staff have received a copy. Annual training for staff and Governors on this topic was provided in November 2016.
- A new Policy on Anti-homophobia and Anti-transphobia has been drawn-up demonstrating our commitment to equality.
- All visitors and contractors are now requested to read a safeguarding information sheet at the front desk following the recommendations of the Safeguarding and Health & Safety Committee.
- A new policy on Emergency Lockdown Procedures has been implemented and practised within school. This Policy is a result of recommendations from the Critical Incident Management Plan.
- Representatives of the Safeguarding and Health & Safety Committee verified the Single Central Record in May 2017.
- All Governors involved with staff recruitment have attended Safer Recruitment training.
- The General Policy Committee has reviewed more than 35 policies in the past year, and made amendments where necessary. New Policies concerning 'Intimate and

Personal Care', and 'Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation' were amongst those adopted this year.

- The 'Treehouse Playroom' has been decorated and furnished and several staff have received training on Positive Play following approval of spend by the Finance Committee. The room is now being used regularly in school by many pupils.
- A carefully balanced budget was set for 2017/18 by the Finance Committee and approved by all Governors. A small surplus remained at the end of the 2016/17 financial year.
- The Finance Committee has begun plans for the refurbishment of KS1. Payment for the work has been forwarded to County we now await a start date for the work from them.
- A new Abacus maths scheme was approved for purchase by the Finance Committee and has been used within school since September 2016.
- The Governing Board approved the school allowing Y6 pupils to wear hoodies with their initials on in their final terms at Gorseybrigg and these have proved extremely popular with the children.
- Following discussions, Governors agreed to a qualified teacher being in the Nursery for 3 afternoons a week after Christmas and this has allowed more parental choice to be fulfilled as more places can be offered. Overall Nursery has more children than in any previous year expected to start in September 2017.
- The Governing Board has a representative on the Partnership of Dronfield Schools (PoDs) Governor team, allowing us to work more collaboratively with local schools.
- The Governing Board has successfully advertised for, and recruited, a new Head teacher as well as a new full-time TA for Nursery and a Business Officer.
- By closely examining the SIRR 2016/17 Governors have worked with the School leaders to identify Key Areas for Development for the school.
- A named Governor monitors attendance each July, and Governors approved the Head sending letters to parents whose children have poor attendance or who are habitually late.
- Analysis of questionnaire responses from parents and pupils allowed Governors to approve a list of planned improvements which was then sent to parents.
- Governors attended a meeting where the new Head introduced herself. In total, 5 Governors were involved in the interview process for the new Head teacher, with interviews being carried out over 2 days.
- At every Governing Board meeting the progress towards the Governor Self-Evaluation Action Plan is reviewed and outstanding issues noted and addressed.
- Governors have spent time helping the school prepare for a potential Ofsted inspection in the near future.
- Walkthroughs and work scrutiny are carried out throughout the year by Governors alongside school staff. Governors are given free access to the school at all times.
- A named Governor meets with the SEN co-ordinator (Kay Christie) in school and looks at interventions.
- Every year the Finance Committee benchmark spend on staffing, consumables, energy costs, etc. in order to ensure that Gorseybrigg spending is in-line with local schools.
- The use and impact of Pupil Premium and Sports Premium are monitored by the Governors.

- The Chair and Vice-Chair of Governors have met with the School Council to discuss what children like about the school and how it could be improved.

This work is captured in approved minutes of the Governing Board, which are available in the school office.

Strategic Planning for the future:

- Governors have appointed several key members of staff over the past year; most importantly a new Head teacher has been recruited to replace Nancy White when she retires. After many years as a highly successful Head teacher, well respected by staff, pupils and Governors, it was acknowledged that finding a suitable replacement would be extremely challenging. The selection of Corinne Thornton was made with strategic planning for the future of the school at the forefront of the Governing Board's agenda.
- The planned refurbishment of the KS1 area will allow quieter, more attractive classrooms for the staff and pupils to work in, which should optimise outcomes.
- Governors aspire to the school being graded as 'Outstanding'. They routinely challenge the Head, monitor progress and always have high expectations for the pupils of Gorseybrigg.
- Governors have approved the school's involvement with the Partnership of Dronfield Schools as they seek to work together in a formal collaboration to ensure best value and share resources. There is now a Governor Representative from Gorseybrigg at the Partnership of Dronfield Schools Governor meetings held regularly at DHFS. This formal collaboration is allowing cost effective training to take place and the sharing of resources and information between schools.
- Online safety is likely to be the next focus for consideration by the school and Governors.

How to contact your Governing Body.

Information about the School's Governing Body is available on the governors' page of the school's website.