

# Little Sutton School Governing Body Strategic Priorities

Academic Year: 2021-2022

## Introduction

This document captures the strategic direction of Little Sutton School's governing body. This should be reviewed annually along with the school SIP to ensure that the school is continuing to follow the necessary strategies and make any changes as deemed necessary by the governing body. This document complements the school SIP which captures specific actions for improvement for the school to deliver over a twelve-month cycle ensuring progress towards the school's agreed vision and mission.

## School Vision

*Learn, Strive, Succeed -*

To raise the aspirations of the school community through creating opportunities, releasing potential to achieve excellence and enjoyment.

## School Mission

### Pupils at Little Sutton...

Learn by aspiring to be	Strive by being	Succeed by aspiring to be
Enthusiastic	Resilient	Empathetic
Focused	Determined	Compassionate
Independent	Ambitious	Happy
Eager to learn	Confident	Articulate
Reciprocal	Reflective	Sociable
Resourceful		Well Rounded
		Fit & Healthy
		Respectful

Whilst the school has its own identity including its own vision and mission, it is part of the "Learning Trust for Excellence" co-operative trust and so it is natural that the vision and mission above fit neatly with the direction of the trust. Moving forward, the governing body will review the strategic direction of the trust and ensure that the school's strategic direction is complementary and harmonized with the co-operative trust's ideals.

## GB Purpose and Key Activities/Tasks –

The governing body has key responsibilities which, if successfully fulfilled, will ensure that the school continues to improve and develop towards its vision and mission. It should be focused at a strategic level, leaving the school to deal with day-to-day matters. Below are the key activities identified by Little Sutton School's governing body:

### *Clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction*

The governing body is the school's accountable body. It is responsible for the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards and it must aim to ensure that children are attending a successful school which provides them with a good education and supports their well-being, and that all children feel safe and that the school follows the appropriate safeguarding practises properly and with rigour.

### *Holding headteacher to account*

The governing body will ask challenging questions of the headteacher regarding the educational performance of the school and its pupils and seek a clear explanation for improvement priorities not being met. It will ensure that the headteacher operates effectively utilising the delegated authority formally approved by the board and that the performance management of the staff is conducted in a proper and fair manner.

### *Overseeing financial performance*

The governing body will scrutinise the school's budget, provide strategic direction on how spending should be prioritised and provide experience from beyond the school to ensure best practice. This should include reviewing staffing arrangements to deliver excellence in teaching within the boundaries of the budget available.

### *Code of Conduct*

All members of the governing body will sign and adhere to the code of conduct ensuring the highest standards of behaviour and commitment to the role.

## **Annual Skills Audit and Self-Review**

The governing body will undertake an annual skills audit enabling a self-review of its function, priorities and any gaps in necessary skills or experience. This audit and review will then drive training and improvement activities which will be captured in the governor action plan. This will include a review of this strategy document and ensure the governing body supports and drives the school towards its vision and mission. School improvement activities will be captured in the SIP. The chair of the governing body will produce regular statements (ideally termly, but at least annually) which update stakeholders on the key activities of both the school and governing body.

New governors will be appointed based on the required skills identified through the annual audit. This will ensure the governing body maintains the necessary skills and experience even when individuals leave.

## **Pupil Progress**

The governing body will ensure that at each meeting the headteacher will provide an update on pupil progress using a variety of statistical tools to demonstrate particular groups' achievements e.g. comparison of boys' progress versus girls' progress. Whilst this statistical information will naturally be at a summary level and reviewed by the full governing body, the Standards and Achievement Working Party will undertake greater scrutiny of the data and ensure that every child is making progress which is appropriate for them as an individual. Any issues identified by the working party will be fed back to the full governing body.

### **Promotion of Tolerance and Respect for People of all Faiths; British Values**

The governing body will ensure that the headteacher can demonstrate that the school acts in a way that promotes 'British values' of democracy, mutual respect and tolerance of all faiths.

### **Curriculum**

The governing body will ensure that the national curriculum is implemented and delivering learning opportunities to all pupils with particular attention in ensuring that the necessary provision is made for children with special educational needs.

### **Succession Planning for Headteacher and Chair of Governors**

The chair of governors will be subject to re-election every 2 years at which point the governing body can consider if it is appropriate for change. The deputy chair will be expected to act as chair of governors should the chair have to resign in between the biennial elections.

Should the headteacher give notice of their intention to leave the school, it is expected that the deputy headteacher will act as headteacher at least while the appointment process is undertaken. Regardless, opportunities will be provided for the deputy headteacher and other senior leaders in school to gain the necessary knowledge to be an effective headteacher in their own right. It is also expected that another headteacher from within the trust will be on the selection panel to help ensure the new appointment will support the values of the trust.

### **Key Roles**

The governing body will ensure that it has nominated representatives who focus on the following key areas: Safeguarding, SEND, Mental Health, Looked After Children, Health & Safety, Collective Worship, Wellbeing and Creative Arts.

### **School Visits**

The governing body will undertake pre-arranged governor visits (at least one annually) to check that the school is implementing the priorities for improvement captured in the SIP.