

Chair of Governors' annual report

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of Little Sutton Primary School July 2022

In accordance with the government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the governing board of Little Sutton Primary School remain as:

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 was re-constituted under the 2012 School Governance Regulations in May 2013 following the creation of a co-operative with other local schools.

At the end of the school year 2021/22, the governing board incorporates:

- 2 staff governors (including the headteacher)
- 2 foundation governors
- 3 elected parent governors
- 1 local authority governor
- 6 co-opted governors

Co-opted governors are appointed by the governing board and are people who, in the opinion of the governing board, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school: two of the co-opted governors are vacancies and the remainder are members of the local community. One of the foundation governor positions is also a vacancy. The board has discussed and agreed that we do not currently need to fill the vacancies but will retain them should specific skills be required to be recruited.

The full governing board meets once each term and also has an interim meeting once each term where a shortened agenda is used to enable greater discussion and debate.

The following committees meet at least once per term –Finance, People, Standards & Achievement. The Income Generation Working Party has devolved authority from the Finance Committee and also meets once per term.

There are also governors with designated responsibilities who act on behalf of the full governing board but with particular knowledge or expertise for safeguarding, mental health, special educational needs, health and safety, collective worship, the creative arts, wellbeing and looked after children.

Attendance record of governors

Governors' attendance at meetings this year has continued to be excellent. Following the lifting of Covid restrictions, in-person meetings have resumed, with governors also being able to attend via video link if attendance in-person is not possible.

On the website you can see our Register of Business Interests and guidance about what a governor is expected to do. Each governor has signed a code of conduct which reflects their role and the behaviours that are expected.

The lifting of Covid restrictions has also meant that, this year, Governors' Day was able to go ahead as planned, which was a delight to all. Governors spent one full day in school and were able to see teaching practises in action and speak directly with pupils and teaching staff. This event is always extremely informative and enjoyable.

The governing board have undertaken a skills audit and identified that we have a very good selection of skills and wide experiences on the board to enable us to fulfil our duties. A training plan has been constructed to encourage individual governors to increase their skills.

% ATTENDANCE 2021/2022	FULL/INTERIM	FINANCE	PEOPLE	S&A	OVERALL
Mark Griffiths	83	80	83	50	74
Philip Palsler	83	100	100		94
Mike Hammond	100	100	100		100
Bev Ashton	100	100		33	78
Rachel Davis	100	100	100		100
Paul Farley	86	100	67		84
Caroline Hawkes	67			50	58
Jun Du	50			50	50
Jo Warren	100	100		67	89
Sairah Hussain	67	60		50	59
Kelly Ruston	83			83	83
Rita Kaur (NV)	83	80	83	100	87
Nicola Arkinstall (NV)	83	80	100	50	78

(NV)=non-voting associate member

The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing board

Our strategic improvement priorities are actioned through the school improvement plan; both in approving it and being involved in the actions undertaken. This year the school has continued to develop as an "English Hub" providing training and expertise to other schools in the area. As part of the 'English Hub', the school has also disseminated over £200,000 of DfE funding to primary schools around the country as part of the government's Accelerator Fund initiative.

Finance issues continue to be the key priority while budgets are tight, and have been a focus of all board meetings. As one of the poorest funded schools in the West Midlands, our Income Generation Working Party is continually trying to identify new sources of income, and the Finance Committee scrutinises all expenditure with a particular emphasis on cost savings.

Another important role for governors is ensuring the safety and well-being of the children and we have a nominated Governor for Safeguarding who reports to the governors about any safeguarding matters.

Governors also review and agree key school policies. This year governors have approved many policies and we continue to follow a rolling programme of reviews.

The minutes of governing board meetings are public documents, and you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.

Future plans for the governors

The board will continue to focus on helping deliver the school improvement plan, keep safeguarding and wellbeing at the forefront of our minds and implement our plans to ensure our financial situation remains healthy.

How you can contact the governing board

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. You can contact the Chair of Governors, Mark Griffiths, via the school office or via email: m.griffiths@littlesu.bham.sch.uk