

**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
ALLFARTHING PRIMARY SCHOOL  
2018-19**



The Governing Body of Allfarthing Primary School has a strong focus on the three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

**Governance Arrangements**

- 4 Parent Governors, who are parents of current pupils at Allfarthing. Interested parents put their names forward when vacancies are announced. If there are more nominations than vacancies, Parent Governors are elected by the parent body of Allfarthing (1 vote per parent).
- 4 Co-opted Community Governors, who are members of the local community and are generally chosen for specialist skills. Generally, they will have registered with the local council's database (SGOSS) and meet the Chair and the Headteacher before being appointed.
- 2 Associate Governors
- 1 Local Authority Governor, who is appointed by the Chair of Governors
- 1 Staff Governor, who is elected by the staff of Allfarthing
- Headteacher & Deputy Headteacher, who are automatically members of the Governing Body

There are four committees:

- Staffing (including a subset of this committee who form the pay committee)
- Curriculum
- Children, Families and Community
- Finance and Premises

Each committee has terms of reference, meets termly and meetings are minuted.

We also have a number of Link Governor roles, where members of the Full Governing Body take on an additional role to focus on specific aspects of the work of the school, which are monitored through visits. We currently have the following Link Governor roles:

- Reading & Writing
- SEND
- Pupil Premium
- Governor Induction & Governor Training
- Safeguarding
- Maths
- More Able Pupils
- Early Years Foundation

Arrangements can also be made to assign specific link roles for governors during times when the school may be focusing on a particular area of change or improvement. To that end the specific governor link roles were reduced this year.

Full Governing Body meetings are held termly and are professionally clerked. Agendas and approved minutes are kept in the school office. Minutes of the Full Governing Body are available on the school website once they have been approved.

### **Governors Attendance Record**

The overall attendance record of governors has been excellent and every meeting has been quorate during the school year. Details of the attendance of school governors are published on the school website.

### **Governing Body Skills & Knowledge Development**

The Governing Body recognises that to fulfill its role effectively, it must ensure that all of its Governors have the required skills and knowledge to support the achievement of the school's priority objectives.

Recognising the importance of training and development, the Governing Body has a Training Policy in place and appoints a Training Governor to ensure that there is a committed and consistent focus on the areas where the Governing Body needs to develop.

In the coming year we will complete a skills audit, to identify and address any skills gaps, together with an annual self-evaluation of the effectiveness of the Governing Body over the school year. Two new Parent Governors have been appointed and will start their terms of office in September 2019.

### **Governor Focus Academic Year 2018-19**

The Governing Body always ensures it meets the three key strategic goals by monitoring all areas of the school's work, and by offering support and challenge through the agreed agendas of committee and full governing body meetings. This is a key priority of the work of a Governing Body. Some of the areas covered this year:

- Identifying priorities for objectives to be included in the School Improvement Plan and monitoring these throughout the year (members of the governing board participate in the yearly INSET day that decides these key areas)
- Monitoring the use of Pupil Premium funding (statement available on the school website)
- Review of statutory policies and ensuring there is compliance of the school website
- Monitoring of pupil progress across the school and ensuring there is a broad offer of curriculum to all students of all abilities
- Rigorous budget management and assurances of 'best value'
- Ensuring the school has a strong and stable Senior Leadership Team

In addition this year we have:

- conducted a review of the school's inventory
- introduced regular morning surgeries to provide the opportunity for parents to bring matters of interest to governors
- reviewed the school's attention to more able pupils
- used visits to learn about new initiatives in the school such as the Oracy system
- conducted a thorough investigation on the safeguarding performance of the school

## **Safeguarding Update for School Year 2018/19**

James Heale, who joined Allfarthing as Deputy Headteacher in September 2018, is the staff lead for safeguarding and has been working closely with the Safeguarding Link Governor, Anna Mulcahy. The Link Governor and Safeguarding Lead meet at least once a term to discuss school procedures. James Heale initiated an audit of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures; the results led to a number of changes and tailored improvements have been made to Allfarthing's safeguarding procedures.

Allfarthing's Child Protection Policy was updated in Autumn 2018 to incorporate new government directives, as well as feedback from staff, to ensure the school's approach to safeguarding is both in line with national standards and responsive to the school's local context. Further developments related to safeguarding in the last school year have included internal training for all teachers on managing conflict between children, improvements to the system used by staff to flag safeguarding concerns, and specialist training for the school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) on mental health. The Link Governor will continue to meet with the Deputy Head regularly and undertake class visits to understand both staff and pupil perceptions of safeguarding at Allfarthing.

## **Assessment of Governors' Impact**

Governors provide a high level of challenge to the Headteacher and the school. They consider a range of documents and data provided by the school in order to judge the impact of strategies. Governors also meet with staff to gain a greater understanding of the school and the on-going requirement to raise standards. The School's Improvement Partner provides notes of visits, which are scrutinised at governing body meetings.

Governors monitor finance stringently to ensure the school's budget is spent to achieve the best possible outcomes for students and meet financial regulations.

## **Future Plans for the Governing Body**

The governing body will continue its work in line with the government agenda.

The Governing Body will continue to support the Headteacher and senior leaders in the efficient running of the school. Governors will continue to aid the senior leaders in developing the strategy to maintain continuous improvement for Allfarthing's pupils and deliver Excellence for All.

As mentioned in particular this year the governors will conduct their regular skills audit to make sure the skills of the current governors match the requirements of the role of a governing body and take steps to address any gaps discovered.

They will also closely monitor the financial viability of the school in the context of tightening budgets.

Governors will continue to establish systems and styles of working that allow them to be effective in fulfilling their roles.

They will also investigate the effectiveness of recent efforts made to increase their communication with parents and carers and the community and whether the instigation of before-school governor surgeries is the right approach.