

## WHEATFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

### ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-21

This statement seeks to outline the impact of governance arrangements at Wheatfields Primary School throughout the course of the 2020-21 academic year.

#### **Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance**

The Instrument of Government for Wheatfields Primary School allows for 11 governors across different categories.

The Governing Body Membership currently stands at 9, with 2 vacancies that the Governing Body continues to work hard to recruit to.

Through the course of the 20-21 Academic Year, the Governing Body has lost 1 governor (down from 10 to 9), which has unfortunately reduced the overall capacity and membership of our board.

Over the course of the 2020-21 Academic Year, the Governing Body has been co-chaired by Lisa Ling and Andy Moffat.

The work of the Governing Body has been supported by Mr M Behnke, as Clerk to Governors.

Over the course of the year, Governors at Wheatfields Primary School demonstrate an overall positive attendance and engagement with their work. Further information about governor attendance can be found on the school website.

#### **The Structure of Governance**

As well as meeting as a Full Governing Body, Wheatfields Primary School also has two committees, in order to ensure sufficient oversight, support and accountability towards areas of identified priority and statutory coverage.

The school names these committees as:

- Resources Committee – which mainly deals with Finance, Personnel, Health & Safety and Premises; and
- Standards Committee – which mainly deals with the curriculum implementation, assessment and data, SEND and Pupil Premium expenditure and impact.

Both committees and the Governing Body overall have a continued oversight of the school's safeguarding responsibilities and manage the updates of school policies aligned to the particular areas of responsibility.

In addition to the above, the school also constitutes a Pay Committee and Headteacher Performance Management Panel annually.

Panels related to particular purposes such as dealing with complaints or exclusions are constituted as they are required, in line with the determining policy guidance.

### **Impact of the work of the Full Governing Body**

Over the course of the last academic year, the Governing Body has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Supporting the school's Risk Assessment with regard to Covid-19 and enabling the safe return to school for children and adults alike;
- Receiving updates from the Headteacher to inform their work in response to the pandemic, in order to ensure the continued education and safety of all children; and
- Overseeing updates with regard to the progress made against the School Development Plan.

### **Impact of the work of the Resources Committee**

Over the course of the last academic year, the Resources Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Ensuring that staffing and the budget is aligned to the priorities in the School Development Plan;
- Overseeing the incorporation of Wheatfields Nursery as part of the school; and
- Reviewing Pupil Premium and SEND strategy, spend and outcomes.

### **Impact of the work of the Standards Committee**

Over the course of the last academic year, the Standards has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Ensuring that Phase Leaders and English and Maths Subject Leaders have a clear view of the needs of the children within their phase/subject area as a result of accurate assessment which is thoroughly analysed;
- Ensuring that leaders have adapted the school's curriculum in response to both identified barriers to learning and prioritising lost learning as a result of the pandemic and disruption to schooling; and
- Ensuring that performance data continues to be regularly scrutinised and a suitable level of challenge provided even through the pandemic.

## **Governor Training**

Governors' work is collectively, so we are always able to benefit from our different points of view and considerations within meetings. However, members of the Governing Body has also benefitted from in-house, HR and curriculum training, Geography Subject Leadership Training, Mental Health in School Training, Knowledge-Rich Curriculum Training and Teach Like a Champion (TLaC) Training.

## **Governor Monitoring**

As well as attending meetings, governors are ordinarily also expected to visit school to understand more about school life and particular areas of priority (typically linked with different areas of the curriculum). This academic year, much of the monitoring has necessarily been remote.

Throughout the course of this year, Governors have undertaken particular monitoring in relation to:

- The Curriculum;
- Remote Learning; and
- Staff and learner well-being.

## **Forward Planning**

Following the above impact of 20-21, the Governing Body looks forward to returning to a more "normal" structure to its work in the forthcoming academic year. This will include:

- Providing continued oversight regarding the impact of expenditure upon children's outcomes;
- Supporting the school to adopt the new Early Years Framework successfully, to become embedded as part of broader school life;
- Embedding Wheatfields Nursery as part of the school; and
- Ensuring that a sustainable budget can be set for 21-22.

## **Other information and contact**

Further information regarding the work of the Governing Body can be found at: [Welcome to Wheatfields Primary School](#). This includes information regarding attendance of governors and their Declarations of Interest.

Alternately, stakeholders are always welcome to engage with the work of the Governing Body by contacting the Co-Chairs of Governors via email to [office@wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk) regarding the work of the Governing Body.