

Ninelands Primary School Governing Body Effectiveness Statement 2018/2019

During the 2018/19 academic year there have been some changes to the membership of the governing body as previous governors came to the end of their terms of office or left the area and new governors joined. In filling co-opted governor vacancies the governing body sought and found members with specific skills which we felt would support the team.

Members of the Governing Body have continued to work closely with the Headteacher, senior leadership team (SLT) and staff to ensure the Governing Body have a good understanding of the school and can continue to support and challenge to ensure improvements across the school have continued.

In common with many schools, challenges around funding meant that despite careful planning the budget slipped into an in-year deficit. Fortunately, last year's 'carry-forward' meant this was covered. The long term absence of a key member of the SLT added to the workload for other members of the senior team and members of the governing body were involved in supporting to resolve the staffing issue. We also provided support to the SLT by changing some processes, adjusting meeting schedules and regularly assisting with monitoring the budget status.

By the end of the year the staffing issue was resolved and careful financial management has ensured the school is in a secure financial position.

Governors continued to provide a strong oversight of the normal business of the school in the sub committees and in the main governing body meetings. Details of the work of these committees are outlined below.

Philip Holmes, Chair of Governors.

Resources Committee

School Policies

Whistleblowing, Disciplinary / Staff Grievance, Staff Code of Conduct, Work and Families, Data Protection, Health & Safety, Freedom of Information, Charging and Remissions, Governor Expenses, Staff Capability

Monitoring Visits

Governors with responsibilities for Health and Safety, Pupil Premium, and PE Grant Funding have held meeting with the appropriate members of staff and reported back to the committee. All spend has been found to be appropriate and no significant areas of concern reported.

Governors responsible for the pay and appraisals met with the Head Teacher and reviewed all the appropriate documentation to ensure and confirm that fair and robust process was followed.

Health and safety monitoring included a premises condition inspection

The annual Schools Financial Value Standard return was completed. Governors responsible for the SFVS reviewed all the supporting evidence to ensure that the self-assessment was a true and fair reflection.

Financial Management

The budget is approved by the full governing body following recommendations from this subcommittee. The committee regularly monitors financial status against the planned budget.

Best value reviews were carried out on catering and kitchen, grounds maintenance and refuse.

Consideration was held of charging for lettings, school meals, music lessons and clubs

Regular Agenda Items

Accident analysis, staff attendance data, staffing and recruitment

Currently the committee are focusing on:

Financial Management – ensuring school budget constraints do not impact negatively on pupils

Catering – monitoring the impact of the recent Catering Leeds contract

Premises – oversight of projects including those funded by recent grant awards.

Consideration of the future use of ‘the bungalow’.

Teaching and Learning Committee

School Policies

The committee have ratified numerous School Policies in line with statutory guidance on:

EYFS, Collective worship, Assessment

Monitoring Visits

Governors have carried out monitoring visits linked to key areas for improvement.

EYFS Monitoring visit - to observe impact of and evaluate the EYFS action plan with responsible school staff.

ICT Monitoring – The teaching and learning committee undertook monitoring visits and met with responsible staff looking at the Teaching of ICT to monitor how progression through the curriculum allows for the development of skills, knowledge and understanding and to assess whether the latest scheme had provided impact and value for money

SATS monitoring – Governors observed the administration of the SATS exams. Monitoring processes used, to ensure integrity of the tests.

Data monitoring

Governors regularly review targets and progress towards those targets across all Key stages.

Over the year the Teaching and Learning subcommittee have been involved in the evaluation of the assessment processes used in school. In order to maximise the usability of the data to monitor progress and provide stakeholders with a realistic snapshot of progress whilst being mindful of staff wellbeing. Governors will continue to work with school staff over the new year, mindful of the new OFSTED frameworks shift away from the use of in year data to form judgements, to ensure that high quality data is collected which enables stakeholders to judge progress but where quality of data is the priority rather than quantity.

Pupil Support Committee

School Policies

The annual safeguarding monitoring report and action plan, Child Protection Policy, Medical Conditions policy, The creation of a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy, Accessibility Policy, Behaviour and discipline, Admissions Policy, The Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Policy

Assisted in setting the School Improvement Plan and monitoring actions to see this was implemented.

Monitoring Visits

Governors have carried out monitoring visits linked to key areas for improvement.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Pupil Premium

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (Send)

Equalities

Ensure the school meets its statutory obligations in respect of equality and community cohesion.

Ensure school complies with the requirements of the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory documents (Primary Schools)

Ensure that where the governing board provides school lunches and/or other school food, this meets DFE standards.

Other topics discussed included

Attendance, Toilet Training , Harmony Council

Other tasks undertaken by the Governing Body include a consultation on the mission statement, where questionnaires were completed by many parents and many staff to help with taking this forward.

We enter the new academic year in a strong position to drive the school forward, provide great all-round education and take on the next set of challenges.