

Annual Governance Statement (Statement of Impact) for the Governing Body of Edmondsley Primary and Nursery School 2017

GOVERNORS' ROLE

The role of the Governing Body is a key part of the leadership of our school.

The Government has high expectations of governing bodies. Governing Bodies are the strategic leaders of our schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education. For schools such as ours this is reflected in the law, which states that the purpose of governing bodies is to 'conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement at the school'.

In accordance with the Government's requirements for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Edmondsley Primary and Nursery School Governing Body are:

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.

The governors bring a wide variety of experience and expertise to the school, and this helps ensure that the school is moving forward and standards are constantly raised in a way that is in line with the overarching ethos and vision of the school, along with the statutory directives from the Department of Education.

This impact statement summarises our role in the development of our school and its pupils over the past year, and provides an opportunity to be transparent about what we do.

Constitution	<p>The Governing Body of Edmondsley Primary and Nursery School was reconstituted in October 2016 and is made up of 12 governors:</p> <p>4 Parent Governors 1 Head Teacher 1 Staff Governor 1 Local Authority Governor 5 Co-opted/Community Governors</p> <p>The Full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. In Spring 2017 Governors re-structured Terms of References (TORs) for sub-committees and their membership based on experience and training. The following sub-committees and TORs were adopted:</p> <p>Curriculum, Standards and Wellbeing Finance (including School and Nursery Fund Committee) Premises, Health and Safety Personnel, First Appeals and Pay Review Head Teacher Performance Management Appeals</p> <p>We also have a Working Party of Governors who are working towards achieving Governor Mark. This continues to be an objective as the accreditation recognises excellent governance in schools.</p>
Governor Monitoring	<p>All governors play a part in monitoring the school regularly. This may take the form of e-mail or visits to the school, depending on the type of Monitoring. Individual Monitoring is shared with the Full Governing Body and this allows all governors to be kept informed about progress towards School Development priorities, and also to be</p>

	aware of any future developments.
Attendance record of governors	Most governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never had to cancel a meeting because it was not 'quorate' [the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made]. A record of attendance can be found on the school website.
Governor Training	Members of the Governing Body have attended trainings. This has allowed us to keep up-to-date with our responsibilities with regards to the latest requirements and expectations, as well as local and national best practice. A record of training can be found on the school website.
The work that we have done in our committees and in the governing body (IMPACT of the governing body)	<p>A new Chair and Vice Chair were elected in October 2016.</p> <p>1. School Improvement Plan We have played an important role in the development of the School Improvement Plan, and the monitoring of its progress throughout the academic year. This year our focus has been on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure good or outstanding teaching throughout the school so that the achievement and attainment of all pupils (regardless of background or culture) is good or better. • To ensure that the quality of leadership is good or outstanding, and has a positive impact on the achievement of pupils, due to staff changes/retirements. • To ensure consistent teaching, learning and assessment without levels across the whole school in reading, writing, grammar, punctuation and spelling; • Further improvements to home/school communication. Governors introduced their first newsletter to parents and staff in Spring 2017 and regularly attend school events/celebration assemblies to highlight the role of governance. <p>2. Achievement of Pupils Our main focus in 2016/17 has been on monitoring the improvement of whole school performance in Reading, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation. Through our Governor Visits, half-termly meetings, termly Head Teacher reports and on-going review of the quantitative data (e.g. the School Performance data, Ofsted Dashboard and RAISEonline) we know how the children are performing and where there are issues that need our input to address. We look at the school's academic performance against annual targets and longer-term trends, and benchmark our performance against national data and local schools as well as that of similar schools. We use this information to constructively challenge the Head Teacher and other school leaders in order to ensure that any potential problems are addressed in a timely way and successes celebrated. This ensures that throughout the year we know how we are performing against our priorities and targets.</p> <p>3. Raising Standards of Teaching At the Full Governing Body meeting we review anonymised data showing evidence pertaining to the quality of teaching within the school carried out by the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher, reports on the progress of specific groups of children and scrutiny of the children's books. Overall, this allows Leaders to track progress against our target that 100% of teaching is good or outstanding. The Pay Review Committee reviews anonymised staff performance against targets and uses this to determine the level of pay awards, if any, for individual members of staff.</p>

	<p>5. Staff Recruitment Although, the recruitment of staff is designated to the Head Teacher, some Governors were involved in staff recruitment, resulting in the appointment of three new members of staff in September 2017. Over and above the on-going review of staff performance, we pay particular attention to the performance and integration of newly recruited members of staff.</p> <p>6. Financial Performance Every year we agree a budget based on the funding we receive from Durham County Council and allocate spend in line with the priorities in the School Development Plan. At the termly Personnel, Premises and Finance Committee meetings we reviewed spend against budget in order to ensure that the priorities are being focused on and that the financial sustainability of our school is maintained. We paid particular attention to the way in which the Pupil Premium and Sports Premium Funding is invested; more details can be found on our website . We also planned and monitored capital investment in the infrastructure of the school. This year we have, amongst other projects, invested in improvements in the fencing around play areas. We constantly review our policies, processes and systems in line with the recommendations set out in the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS).</p> <p>7. Statutory Duties We are very mindful of our statutory duties as a Governing Body and over the course of the year we have paid particular attention to Health and Safety requirements, staff and pupil welfare and Safeguarding.</p> <p>8. Improving Effectiveness of Governance Over the year, we have developed a New Governor Induction Policy for two new governors, including appointing mentors to help new governors become more effective and to make them feel they are doing something worthwhile for which they are appreciated.</p> <p>Following a Governing Body Health Check carried out by Durham County Council (summer term 2016), the highlighted areas for improvement have now been addressed by the FGB.</p> <p>Governors issued parent/staff/pupil questionnaires, evaluated the responses and reported back the results.</p> <p>Governors met in the summer term to celebrate the year’s achievements and to self-evaluate 2016/2017 school improvement as well as discuss priorities for the coming year. Our School Self Evaluation grades were agreed.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>Governors will continue to Monitor the school’s progress to meeting objectives set. Through Monitoring Visits, governors will reflect on our School Self Evaluation and consider possible future areas for development – short or longer term goals. Our Governing Body are dedicated to carry out their Strategic Functions successfully. To support their drive to do this, Governors continue to work towards achieving the Governor Mark, will produce a Governor Development Plan to highlight agreed objectives to improve and strengthen the strategic effectiveness of the governing body and take up training opportunities to strengthen their skillset.</p>
<p>How you can contact the governing body</p>	<p>Please contact our Chair of Governors, Mr Stuart Hogarth via the School Office.</p>

