

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Watlington Primary School

July 2019

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Watlington Primary 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.**

Governance arrangements	<p>The Governing Body of Watlington Primary School made up of 1 Local Authority Governor, the Headteacher, 1 staff governor, 2 parent governors and 4 Co-opted governors. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. We also on occasions have Associate Members who add a particular area of expertise over a brief time to support the Governing Body. The current Governing Body includes parents who have a good understanding of both the local community, and the day to day experience of Watlington Primary through participating in school life with their children, experienced staff who have worked in different school establishments and an experienced headteacher and local authority adviser. Over the past term we have had an Associate Member.</p> <p>As a relatively small board, we operate with Full Governing Body meetings only in order to use our time and skills more effectively. We established this format in April 18 and over this past year, we have reorganised our agenda cycle to ensure all aspects of our responsibilities are covered. This means focusing on standards of achievement and Teaching and Learning for part of our meeting and on Leadership and Management, budget, staffing and premises issues for the remaining part of the meeting.</p> <p>Subsidiary committees meet when needed such as those that consider arising issues of pupil discipline and staffing matters.</p>
Attendance record of governors	Governors have good attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). The Appendix gives details of individual governors' attendance at

	<p>meetings. As a governing body we have the authority to decide whether to accept any apologies for missing meetings as we believe you cannot be an effective governor if you are not participating and keeping yourself well informed as fully as possible.</p>
The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body	<p>Through a two day full Ofsted Inspection in January 2019 the school continued to be judged as Good overall and in all areas with the exception of Outcomes which Require Improvement. This judgement fully corresponded with the Governors view of the school and the Local Authority. As Governors we have always sought external validation so learning walks and observations have been undertaken regularly throughout the year by the Local Authority with the Headteacher.</p> <p>The Ofsted report found that 'governors are ambitious for the school, its staff and its pupils', demonstrating the work that has been done within the governing body to develop skills has been effective. The Ofsted report also noted that 'governors balance their dual roles of support and challenge well'. This is crucial for any governing body in order to be effective strategic leaders in a school.</p> <p>The Governing Body has continued to ensure that they are aware of changes in education such as the increased monies for Sports, changes to funding and expectations for SEND and have actively sought to keep well informed by attending local authority and VNET School Improvement briefings regarding academisation and other developments. We are determined to ensure that positive choices can be made for the school to ensure that Watlington grows and develops further in the future. Part of our work has been to ensure that the school is not isolated and as such we have a close working relationship such as with Cherrytree Academy Trust through which we have shared a SENDCo over the last year. A clear commitment to active governance has been made and this expectation is shared with all prospective governors. Our current attendance record demonstrates the commitment shown by the current members. This year we have worked on producing clear agenda cycles for increased effectiveness and being prepared with questions to ensure challenge from governors is precise and targets the appropriate areas.</p> <p>A rigorous monitoring cycle is in place to ensure governors are well informed about all school matters. The responsibility to contribute to, and to monitor, the School Development and Improvement Plan and the School Self Evaluation Form is clear. At every meeting progress towards milestones is discussed and</p>

	<p>reviewed.</p> <p>All statutory documentation is in place alongside other key school documentation. A clear review programme is in place to ensure policies and documents are up to date and relevant.</p> <p>Governors have been involved in regular discussions as the school continues to develop the assessment system following the National changes to assessment. Pupil data is examined at each meeting to make sure the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. We are also concerned about our “vulnerable groups” of children and focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their outcomes.</p> <p>Governors are rigorous in carrying out all their statutory duties. This includes safeguarding and we have a Nominated Governor for Safeguarding who gives a termly report to the governors about any safeguarding matters.</p> <p>A governor always attends budget setting meetings with the Local Authority Finance Support Officer. This ensures a good understanding of the financial position. Where large sums of money are committed to projects such as Talk 4 Writing, and the outdoor classroom, we make sure the impact of such items is reported back and validated to the Governing Body through a range of mechanisms.</p> <p>Governors continue to focus on raising standards and have committed to using Viscount Nelson Educational Network as a school improvement package to ensure external verification of our standards of teaching and learning in particular.</p> <p>Attendance figures at the school continue to improve as the school follows rigorous processes to monitor this.</p> <p>Minutes of the Governing Body meetings are public documents - you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.</p>
Future plans for the governors	<p>Governors are reviewing the School Improvement and Development Plan in the light of achievements this year and this will be linked to our areas of improvement from Ofsted. We will also be continuing to work with the staff and the local authority to address the difficulties the school has faced from issues of racism in the community. The resilience of leaders and governors in dealing with this issue was recognised by Ofsted and we sadly continue to be challenged by this.</p> <p>Being a school governor is a challenging role. It is crucial that we continue to ensure that when we recruit new governors they have the appropriate skills to strengthen our Governing Body. If you are</p>

	interested please request a meeting with either the Chair or Vice Chair of Governors who can explain the work of the Governors further and they will then ask you to undertake a skills audit in order that our Governing Body has the necessary expertise to carry out their roles.
How you can contact the governing body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Governors, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings and more information about what we do, on the Governors' page of the school website.

Watlington Primary School Governing Body

Governor	Category	Term of office expiry date	Attendance at Full Governing Body Meetings 2018 - 2019
Kate Samouelle (Chair)	Co-opted Governor	06/07/2021	70%
Rosemary Kett (Vice Chair)	LA Governor	05/05/2019	100%
Shannon Hewitt	Staff Governor	25/01/2021	90%
Samina Asif	Co-opted Governor	02/09/2022	90%
Ann Youngs	Co-opted Governor	24/09/2022	100%
Mark Roythorne (Vice Chair)	Parent Governor	17/05/2022	90%
Ryan Whitby	Parent Governor	24/09/2022	66%
Ruth McGlone	Head Teacher	Ex officio	100%
Vacancy	LA Governor		
Vacancy	Parent Governor		
Rosemary Kett	Associate Member	31/07/2019	100%