

Hutton All Saints' C of E Primary School  
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## ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNING BODY 2015-2016

The major focus of the governors is to ensure that our pupils progress appropriately in their education. The Governing Body appreciate that for this to happen the pupils must be supported by a well led, enthusiastic, professionally competent and motivated staff, all working together within a safe, supportive, stimulating environment.

To achieve their objectives governors must continually evaluate the role they have played within the life of the school, and publish relevant information to all interested parties.

This statement is part of that evaluation and publication process.

The Governing Body has three core strategic functions which are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Governors are responsible for setting the school's strategic framework, identifying priorities for school improvement and monitoring progress towards these goals. We are also responsible for setting a school ethos of high expectations of: behaviour, progress, attainment, the learning environment and Christian values.

School Ethos and Aims:

*Commitment to Excellence within a Caring Christian Environment*

Maintain and improve the caring and friendly school environment, where Christian principles and worship are taught and practised by pupils and staff alike. Provide an attractive, safe and stimulating learning environment where the highest standards are expected. Give pupils the values, knowledge, understanding and skills they need to continue learning throughout their lives.

The School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practise. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff

Governors must provide challenge to the school and hold the headteacher and senior leaders to account for improving the quality of teaching and learning and school performance. We do this through questioning and through regular monitoring and analysis of data on children's performance and progress. Governors hold the Head teacher to account for the performance management of teachers. (The Head teacher's performance management is conducted by governors).

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Governors look at financial statements and ask questions to ensure that the school makes efficient use of its budget and provides best value for money.

Each year the Governing Body considers:

- Standards of attainment and progress of all year groups and groups of children across the school;
- Attendance and punctuality;
- Staffing;
- Finance;
- Health and Safety;
- Regular review of the School Development Plan and the school's Self Evaluation.

During the 2015-16 school year, the Governors have in particular focused on:

- Increasing opportunities for children to reflect on the experiences provided, so they can develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding;
- Improving differentiation and challenge so that all pupils can make more rapid progress;
- Improving rates of progress by ensuring that assessment is used consistently in all year groups to inform teaching and ensures that needs of all key groups are met;
- Improving the quality of written and spoken English within the school and across the curriculum;
- Continuing to improve our topic based curriculum and increase learning opportunities;
- Reviewing the new curriculum and assessment provision.

Each committee use their expertise to improve and develop provision in their specific area with the support of the full governing body. This has happened in the following ways:

#### Finance, Premises and Audit Committee

- Extension of the canopy outside the EYFS classroom to enable more outdoor learning space in all weathers;
- Designing, funding and building a new EYFS playground to improve provision for outdoor learning and create a much needed enabling environment to support the EYFS Curriculum;
- EFA bid submitted to fund a kitchen project;
- The bid was successful and provided a kitchen extension and refurbishment to enable the provision of healthy, hot school lunches for all children;
- Improving security around the school by providing security lighting and cameras;
- Bid placed for security fencing and systems for the front of the school (unsuccessful- no funding provided);
- Clevertouch boards installed in all classrooms to improve technology resources and enable exciting and interactive learning;
- Refurbishment of the year 1 toilets to improve facilities for all children (used at lunchtimes and playtimes);

#### Personnel

- The recruitment of new teachers and LSAs;
- A new full time Inclusion Manager appointed to improve provision for key groups and ensure new SEND provision implemented;
- Appointment of kitchen staff to run new hot school meals for all children;
- Management of appraisals to ensure quality of teaching continues to improve;
- Appointment of new finance manager to continue to improve value for money;
- Monitoring of training and professional development following the School Development Plan objectives;
- Monitoring of safeguarding procedures and training to ensure school is meeting government requirements and safety of pupils is paramount;
- Essex Children's Safeguarding Board Audit completed.

#### Curriculum

- Evaluation of Clevertouch boards and their impact;
- Planning and executing Governor visits to enable the monitoring of progress towards the School Development Plan;

- Evaluating the new curriculum and assessment;
- Monitoring provision for topic based learning and implementing further learning experiences;
- Evaluating and implementing Numicon throughout the school;
- Evaluating and monitoring parent workshops provided by staff and their impact on pupils.

#### Admissions and Attendance

- Evaluating and changing the admissions policy;
- Improved attendance monitoring and increased attendance percentage for the whole school;
- Provision for appeals.

The following are some of the ways in which the Governing Body impact on the strategic management of the school:

#### School Development Plan (SDP) -

Governors work co-operatively with the Head teacher and senior management in the writing and monitoring of the School Development Plan. The School Development Plan sets aims for the school. The current SDP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SDP is set out with clear aims, the key tasks which will be completed in order to achieve these aims and the success criteria in order to measure outcomes. The SDP is monitored and reviewed termly, with an evaluation overview being completed and presented to Governors with the Head teacher's Report.

#### Governors Visits –

The governors are invited to visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SDP and specific issues. Guidance in terms of the roles and responsibilities of statutory link governors are provided to relevant governors and regular training is available. Each governor is linked to a class which provides further opportunities to monitor and support class activities.

#### Data Analysis –

Data is made available to Governors through termly meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions with the Head teacher and members of the senior management team, thus the Governors are able to benchmark their data against similar schools, the Local Authority and schools nationally to ensure the schools' standards and expectations are high and are able to be closely scrutinised. Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups, including vulnerable groups, and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium Grant.

#### Policies –

Governors review all relevant policies on a programmed basis to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date. Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education mandatory policy list and the Local Authority recommended list.

#### Financial Management –

Members of the Governing Body have been trained in school finance management. The impact of the Governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective and continuous. Governor expertise – the Governors bring a wide variety of expertise to the school and this helps to ensure the school is moving forward.

#### Governor Meeting Attendance –

Governor attendance has been of a very good level, with any absences having been fully explained and accepted and approved by the Governing Body. There are no causes for concern at the level of commitment shown by any member of the Governing Body.

#### Review –

The governing body, the Head teacher and all members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop the school. This was recognised by OFSTED in their September 2013 inspection following which the school was graded as "Good" with many "Outstanding" features. The school continues to be successful with ongoing improvement in pupil progress and attainment which reflects a whole school drive to consistently raise standards. This can be seen in the school National Curriculum test results - available on our website.

## Future Plans for 2016 – 2017

In line with the SDP, the focus for the strategic development of the school involves the following areas for development:

- To further develop the topic based curriculum and include opportunities for children to reflect on the school's Christian values;
  - To increase the proportion of pupils working at age related expectations and above, particularly in maths and writing;
  - To embed improved pupil outcomes in English, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling;
  - Increase EYFS GLD (Good Level of Development).
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- Place a bid for funding to replace our boiler;
  - Place a bid to fund security fencing and systems at the front of the school;
  - Improve notice boards around the school to improve communication;
  - Instruct architect to design extension of office, secure lobby/waiting area, medical room and visitor toilets (ready to place bid in the next round).