

GOVERNORS ANNUAL STATEMENT 2017-2018

CORE STRATEGIC FUNCTIONS

This annual statement outlines how the Governing Body has fulfilled its responsibilities and how it has met the three core strategic functions of the School's Governing Body set out by Government and the Department for Education:

- 1 Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- 2 Holding the head teacher 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



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The school improvement plan is a flexible working document that is communicated to all staff and stake holders. This forms the basis of targets for staff to work towards. It sets out the key priorities for the school development plan. This plan has been a working document since March 2014, a new plan will be formed and actions from the recent OFSTED inspection will be inputted.

Area	Summary of Actions
Teaching needs to secure rapid progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Continuous Professional Development for all staff✓ Focus on targeted interventions✓ Revamp of the whole school curriculum with the introduction of immersive learning.✓ Lesson observations to focus on improved learning over time
Marking needs a greater focus on improving work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Repeated visits by staff to the marking policy✓ Focus on 'Now Try' prompts for children to improve work and time dedicated to this in lessons.✓ Ongoing book scrutinies by management team and subject coordinators.
Handwriting needs to improve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Regular handwriting practice for children✓ Development of uniform teaching strategies
Greater challenge needed for more able	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Continue to develop a child led curriculum to allow opportunities for more able learners to take their own learning forward.✓ Plans to ensure extension and challenge is available for more able children in every lesson.
Increased opportunities investigations and problem solving (particularly in maths)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ New maths methods for teaching implemented and all staff trained✓ Staff development around the use of problem of solving with children✓ Focus on investigation and problem solving within the new curriculum✓ Reasoning training/daily challenge/high 5 implemented throughout the school.
Reduce persistent absentee rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Introduction of incentives for both children and parents for good attendance✓ Introduction of new attendance policy and attendance pathway to deal with concerns in a timely manner✓ Increased contact with parents/carers when there are attendance concerns✓ Persistent absentee rates have reduced

KEY ISSUES THAT THE GOVERNING BODY HAS FACED

- Appointment of new head teacher in January 2017
- Resignation of a member of the teaching staff from the senior management team
- OFSTED Inspection June 18
- Appointment of new teaching staff in KS1 & KS2
- Continued monitoring of the implementation and embedding of the new national curriculum and assessment processes
- Review and monitoring of pupil performance data and progress
- Budget setting and monitoring and review of school finances
- Monitoring the improvement of the school learning environment
- Review of school policies and documentation
- Monitoring of the implementation of the school development plan
- A more robust review of subject area performance through a development of the link governor role
- Monitoring of improvements to school building

ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE GOVERNING BOARD ON THE SCHOOL

The governing body of Simonside Primary School work alongside the head teacher, senior leaders and staff to improve and move the school forward. Together we are all committed to promote and continue to develop the highest standards of educational achievement and personal development for all our pupils and this academic year has been no exception.

- Mrs Bland left us in December 2017. The governing body spent a lot of time ensuring a suitable replacement was found and Mrs Parnaby was appointed in January 2018. Mrs Parnaby has been an excellent addition to the school, she has worked tirelessly to implement small changes to the school to ensure we are delivering a high quality of education to all our children. She has worked well with Mrs Pegman, our deputy head, the senior management team and staff to ensure our school is providing the best possible outcomes for all children and to ensure the school is a happy and safe environment.
- Due to the resignation of Mrs. Stephenson, the chair of governors has worked with Mrs Parnaby and Mrs Pegman to recruit new teaching staff to cover not only this post but other positions which became available. We have recruited 5 new teaching staff who are going to be an excellent addition to the teaching team.
- School governors supported the head teacher, senior management and staff during the recent OFSTED inspection. During the day of the inspection the chair of governors and other members of the governing body meet with the inspector to answer questions on the school's leadership, curriculum and school development plan. The inspection went extremely well and we have maintained our GOOD status.
- Regular updates have been given at full governor meetings regarding the continuing progress on the implementation and embedding of the new national curriculum. Emphasis has been placed on the monitoring of pupil progress and assessment systems put into place.
- Pupil performance data and progress has been provided at each governor meeting, in addition to reports from termly reviews by the local authority School Improvement Advisor. The progress of pupil premium and SEN pupils has been highlighted, in addition to the interventions in place for pupils not making the expected advancement.
- Governors approved the budget for 2017/18. Monitoring of the budget has taken place at the 3, 6 and 9 monthly periods, ensuring that spending has the maximum impact on the educational performance of our children.
- The school environment has continued to be improved, both internally and externally, making it a more inviting place to learn. Link governor monitoring visits have taken place with subject leaders, all staff have worked hard to make all areas of the school a positive learning environment for children. In particular, the outdoor areas are improving, with the introduction of an outdoor classroom space to further enhance the immersive curriculum, with children being significantly involved in the process.

- Reviewing changes to school policies and the adoption of new documentation has continued. Reports from the Corporate Director are also presented at each governor meeting. Specific attention has been given to ensure that the school complies with the DFE mandatory and LA recommended list. Due to introduction of the new GDPR law which came into force on the 25th May 18, every school is now required to have a data protection officer. The governing body agreed to use the services of Bryan Chapman along with other schools in South Tyneside, this will ensure we are compliant with all GDPR legislation. Termly reports are given to governors.
- The School Development Plan has been accepted by governors, following preparation by the Head teacher and senior leaders, focusing on the key priorities for the school. At each full governing board meeting the School Development Plan has been highlighted in the head teacher's report. The actions have been reviewed against the expected outcomes and, where possible, against the measurable success indicators. The reviews by the local authority School Improvement Advisor have also focused on areas of the development plan and reports have enabled governors to further track progress.
- The governing has continued to monitor improvements to school building. The building has gone through a considerable update which has included new carpets in some areas, new windows, painting refreshed and a move around of classroom to accommodate increasing numbers of children. An area of the building which was being leased to an external provider has been taken back and the area has been turned into classrooms for upper KS2 children.

Report Prepared By:

Sam Harrison (Chair of Governors)