

## **Annual Statement from the Governing Board**

### **Bede Burn Primary School**

The core functions of the Governing Board are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction,
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance of staff, and;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school, making sure its money is well spent.

The Governing Board of Bede Burn Primary School work in partnership with the Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team, Teachers and Support Staff to promote and maintain high standards of educational achievement by ensuring pupils achieve appropriate progress and attainment. This can only happen if pupils are supported by a well led, enthusiastic, professional and competent staff which we are lucky to have at Bede Burn, as well as a dedicated Governing Body who all believe in the continuous improvement of standards and quality of our provision.

**The School Improvement Plan (SIP):** Bede Burn Governors work in co-operation with the Head Teacher and Senior Management in the writing and monitoring of the SIP. This sets the focus for the coming year and reflects on the progress and attainment made in the previous year, measured against the previous years' cohort, local and national targets, school self-evaluation and teaching and learning scrutiny. The current SIP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SIP 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 SIP is monitored and reviewed termly, with an evaluation overview being completed and presented to governors through regular internal and external reports.

Bede Burn Primary School aims for 'Everybody Learning to Change the World.' This encompasses our belief that knowledge is the greatest power, and that learning can lead people to change the world for the better – something that Bede Burn instils in our pupils. Secondly, it reflects that *everybody* in Bede Burn is a learner... and often we learn from each other. We aim to make sure that our pupils run smiling to their parents at home-time, keen to share what they've been doing that day. We want to spark the imagination of our pupils and provide an education that prepares our children to be upstanding members of the community, both local and global. We ensure our children leave year 6 with everything they need for success in their

bright futures, including a broad academic knowledge, respect for themselves and others, confidence and a host of fond memories.

Here at Bede Burn, **'We think big – we dream big – we go for it!'**

Our current School Development Plan has four main objectives:

- 1) Quality of Education;
- 2) Behaviour and Attitudes;
- 3) Personal Development;
- 4) Leadership and Management.

Bede Burn's curriculum prepares pupils for their futures as lifelong learners; teaching and learning is consistently excellent across the school; our school is a valued community where children are empowered to become active global citizens and learners; leaders are the key drivers of school improvement. Each of these four main objectives has a developed strategy to enable achievement, they are: a focus on strong basic knowledge alongside enriching opportunities to master skills and strengthen understanding; a commitment to teachers' professional development and growing expertise is at the core of strengthening all teaching; pupil development is underpinned by the school's values and ethos and leaders are the key drivers of school improvement. Each objective and strategy in our SIP have identified tactics to achieve delivery, which clearly outline milestones and review checkpoints for each tactic during the launch, implementation and review points within the plan. Each tactic within the SIP has identified success indicators which enable the Governing Body and others access the current performance and achievement during regular updates from the Head Teacher at the termly meetings.

**Assessment of the impact of the Governing Board during 2018 / 2019:** We, the Governing Body, along with the Head Teacher, Senior Management Team, Teaching Staff, and Support Staff as all other members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop the school. This has been successful with continued improvement in pupil progress and attainment. All Governors have shown a very high level of commitment to the future of the school and offer an increasingly outstanding level of challenge and support to the school whilst ensuring the school fully meets its statutory requirements relating to safeguarding. We support the continuous improvement culture which ensures the quality of teaching in all classes is consistently excellent, and the impact of our work has been strong progress measures in all classes. Morale is very high and belief in the school's success runs throughout the core of the school.

Following our Ofsted visit on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018, as previously communicated we maintained a strong judgement of a 'Good' school. We received a letter which evidenced that our direction of travel, senior management approach, strategies and challenge by the Governing Body had resulted in the school remaining good. Ofsted letter to the Head Teacher quote:

'Governors are delighted with the changes that are taking place. They have reviewed thoroughly their own knowledge and skills and have undertaken significant training to improve these. They know how important it is to check things out for themselves such as safeguarding and provision for pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. They have done so carefully and thoroughly. You value their whole-hearted support and challenge.'

As identified by Ofsted, our Governing Body, Head Teacher, Senior Management Team, Teaching Staff and Support Staff were asked to focus on:

- the achievement of pupils in writing to improve by providing further high-quality opportunities for pupils to practise writing for a variety of purposes and range of audiences;
- pupils have good opportunities to develop, improve and refine their writing skills within the context of the now-rich curriculum within subjects other than English;
- enough time is provided to strengthen the impact of teaching and to ensure that pupils learn and master new skills before moving onto their next challenge.

All of the above were incorporated into last year's School Improvement Plan to ensure effective implementation across the school.

### **Composition of the Governing Body**

<b>Name, Role and some information about our Governors</b>
<b>Mr Jason Ail, Co-opted Governor:</b> Jason is a group accountant and brings accountancy scrutiny skills into our governing body. Jason lives in the local community with his family; he has two daughters that have both attended Bede Burn Primary School. Jason felt that he needed to help the school in any way he could, as a Group Financial Controller for a national business and someone who is heavily involved in their village associations and clubs. Jason feels he can improve the schools relationships locally along with his working experiences to help guide the school in the future.

**Name, Role and some information about our Governors Cont...**

**Mrs Nicola Faulkner, Head Teacher:** Nicola has taught at Bede Burn for a number of years; first as teacher, then Deputy Head Teacher and now as Head Teacher. In addition to her Head Teacher duties, she is also the school lead on Safeguarding and Assessment. She enjoys teaching and does so regularly. She believes that learning can change the world, and leads the school in ensuring that each and every child leaves Bede Burn with enough knowledge, understanding, skills, values and fond memories to go on to do great things.

**Mrs Amanda Lenny, Co-opted Governor (staff member):** Amanda has 29 years' teaching experience across the Primary age range; she has worked beyond the normal scope of a class teacher through roles such as the Leading Maths teacher for South Tyneside LA. Amanda has worked supporting teachers to improve the delivery of maths lessons which has helped her to become one of the LA's maths specialist teachers (MAST). Since 2016 Amanda has fulfilled the Assistant Head Teacher and SEND Coordinators role for Bede Burn Primary School, she recognises the importance of being a lifelong learner and therefore has completed the NPQSL and 2 PGCE's in Children's Education to further her knowledge.

**Mrs Nicola O'Doherty, Co-opted Governor & Vice Chair of Governing Body:** Nicola has been a parent governor at Bede Burn Primary School for 3 years now; she has a retail management background and brings many skills to the governing body. Nicola is passionate about the school both as a school governor and as a parent. Nicola is the link governor for English and it her role to ensure the school is meeting their objectives at a subject level and at a school improvement plan level however she also works with the lead teacher to evaluate our strengths and areas of improvement for this core subject area.

**Mrs Jane Parkes, Staff Governor:** I am a member of the support staff team and have been for 28 years. I currently support in Y2 and cover PPA from Y1-Y6. I am responsible with my colleague, Karen Richardson, for delivering Kidsafe and running breakfast club. I am the UNISON rep too. I firmly believe in equality and diversity and I'm not afraid to challenge anyone who doesn't follow our school's policies and procedures. We are, after all, an inclusive school, working under the direction of our Local Authority (LA), which is an Equal Opportunity employer. Over the years I have seen lots of changes to staff and the curriculum. I am an active member of the governing body, holding the head teacher to account through rigorous questioning and appropriate challenge, during regular reviews and discussions. Information and data is shared openly and this allows us as governors to make informed decisions. I am the link governor for Health and Safety. I regularly liaise with our site supervisor, Mr McKeown about H&S issues. I attend all relevant governors training that are provided by the Local Authority which is run by Stephen Bell.

**Name, Role and some information about our Governors Cont...**

**Mrs Linda Reiling, LEA Governor & Chair of Governing Body:** Linda is a Senior Commissioning Manager for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism as well as the Transforming Care Lead for Children and Adult within NHS Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group. She has worked in the NHS for 16 years now in a number of different roles, in different health areas which have allowed her to bring a lot of knowledge and skills into the governing body here at Bede Burn. Linda has an active volunteer timetable as the Chair of Sunderland Amateur Swimming Club as well as Chair of Bede Burn Primary School Governing Body, she believes in giving back wherever possible. Linda has a BA Hons in Applied Management and an MSc in Transformational Leadership and this has helped her whilst serving 3 of our previous Head Teachers as a LEA governor. Linda also served as our Vice Chair for a year before being appointed as Chair of the Governing Body in June 2018, Linda has recently been re-elected for another 2 year team as Chair.

**Mrs Jean Watson, Parent Governor:** Jean is a retired civil servant who worked as a project manager implementing strategic government policy changes. Although not a parent she has watched the evolution of the school with 5 grandchildren attending Bede Burn over the last 8 years. Jean is the link governor for three subjects, Humanities (Geography & History), Computing and Arts & Crafts which gives her the opportunity to meet staff with lead responsibilities for the areas to discuss action planning and how these fit into the school improvement plan.

**Mr Nigel Yarrow, Co-opted Governor:** Nigel is an ex-teacher who worked at Jarrow School, he has been a governor at Bede Burn since his daughter was a pupil here and she is now a University Lecturer. Nigel contributes to our local community by working at 1027 (Jarrow) Sqn Air Training Corps two evenings per week. Nigel is the link governor for the school website; it's his role to ensure the website fulfils its statutory requirements, to make sure the information is accessible, accurate and up to date and as user friendly as possible.

**Mr Michael Williams, Parent Governor:** Michael originally graduated with a degree in fine art and is now an entrepreneur with a broad skill set. A partner in a local, artisan chocolate business, he also works freelance as a creative consultant offering graphic, media, and web design services to start-ups and SMEs. He has previously worked in education, as a university technician and as a teaching assistant for a college of further education. He has recently taken the role of link governor responsible for SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) development.

## **Name, Role and some information about our Governors Cont...**

**Mrs Karen Guthrie, Parent Governor:** Karen is the owner and founder of two local businesses which she feels will help bring the fun and creative element to the governing body. Karen attended Bede Burn Primary as a child so she has a very strong connection with the school. Karen lives in the Village and currently has one child in Bede Burn Primary, with her second child due to join in 2021. Karen joined the governing body as a parent governor as she felt her enthusiasm and love for the school could help get the best for all current children as well as future children coming into the school.

**Scheme of Delegation:** Please refer to the scheme of delegation in relation to the various committees that each Governor is responsible for – linked on our website in the governors section: <http://www.bedeburnprimary.co.uk/governors-information/>

**Link Governor Roles:** Please refer to the link governor table in relation to the various link governor areas that each governor is responsible for – linked on our website in the governors section: <http://www.bedeburnprimary.co.uk/governors-information/>

### **Link Governor Annual Updates:**

**Mr Nigel Yarrow, Website Link Governor:** Often the first contact point for anyone wishing to learn about our school is the Website. Consequently the website is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it fulfils the requirements laid down by responsible government department, the Local Authority and the wishes of the Governing Body. The first part of each review is to see if the statutory requirements have been met. Secondly the website is viewed to see that it is accurate, current and attractive. Lastly one topic is chosen at random e.g. Special Educational Needs or Progress in Mathematics and examined by 'going in cold' through the website to find the required information. The results of the reviews are fed back to the Head Teacher and the Governing Board with comments and recommendations regularly throughout the year.

**Mrs Linda Reiling, Strategy and School Improvement Plan Link Governor:** This has been a year of change for the school which included the successful rebranding of Bede Burns school uniform. The children feel that the new school logo represents Bede Burn currently, it was designed by the children themselves and they made the final selection. The children were eager to ensure the new logo and uniform represented how they perceived the school and how they perceived themselves which is full of colour, dreams and determination. Within my link governor role I meet with the Head Teacher termly to discuss school progress and update link governor reports are presented at governing body meetings to share key messages and feedback.

**Mr Jason Ail, Maths Link Governor:** This year I have taken over the role as Maths Link Governor and after meeting with the responsible lead teacher and his team with regards to their work plan for students across KS1 and KS2, I was amazed around how in-depth the analysis was around students' needs and the deployment of extra help to those students who needed it. We can see the achievements made by the students this year and this is all thanks to that lead teacher and his team. I had the additional level of insight with regards to the progress made by my own daughter and the results she achieved as a result of this at the end of KS2. I believe that this new approach has helped students across the school and will continue to do so for many years to come.

**Mrs Jean Watson, Topics Link Governor:** This year the aim has been to embed the Cornerstones programme and develop teaching around these areas. As Link Governor for Humanities, Art & Craft, Music and PE I have taken the opportunity to observe how topics are selected and they are integrated with National Curriculum subjects. There have been amazing visual displays of arts and crafts across the school which have been supported by excellent pieces of written work and on my visits into the school I have witnessed how enthusiastic the children are to be working on specific topics, e.g. the children working in the forest garden who were looking for materials that they could use to make Stone Age weapons. The events throughout the year have allowed the children to demonstrate their dramatic and musical abilities and the Christmas performances of both KS1 & KS2 was an excellent example of the school motto "We think big – we dream big- we go for it". These performances were a great collaboration between the children, teaching staff and some of our parents and the costume design was an enormous success. With the additional funding from "Real PE" the school has been able to buy into the Boldon Sports Hub which has allowed the children experience professional teaching. Our teachers and teaching assistants have had opportunities to attend training to gain new skills which have assisted them in lesson planning especially as children have mixed abilities. Outside we have seen improvements to the Forest Garden with an introduction of a fire pit and log seating area.

**Mrs Nicola O'Doherty, English Link Governor:** This year I have taken on the role as English link governor, this past year in English has been a whole school focus with a strategy developed around mastery of writing as this was highlighted as an area for development following our Ofsted visit. As the link governor I have met termly with the English lead, together we review progress made and areas for further development and this is then fed back to the rest of the governors to ensure transparency and challenge. I was also involved in the appointment process to select our new English lead Mrs Peel and I am assured by this appointment. At the

end of last year I had the opportunity to take on the link governor role for Play, a concept which will see our school begin its journey into becoming an OPAL school, providing an exciting outdoor play provision for our children.

**Policies:** As governors we are responsible for the development of and implementation of policies which play a vital role in ensuring the effectiveness of the school and its staff in meeting its obligations to its pupils, parents and other stakeholders. We ensure that policies are regularly scrutinised and updated to reflect national expectations and government legislation.

**Finances:** As governors we ensure that we set and regularly monitor the current and three year budget of the school, to ensure that monies are utilised correctly to provide best value to our school working against the Schools Financial Value Standards.

**Summary and Future Plans:** This year we are planning to reallocate Link Governors to ensure that we continue to act as the critical friend of the school – acting objectively to ensure each of the areas of learning is scrutinised closely to ensure there is no slippage against measurable targets. Due to the departure of one of our dedicated School Governors (Mr Mark Overton) as well as the successful recruitment of 2 new Parent Governors it is important to ensure we have clear roles and responsibilities not only as part of the Governing Body but also within the school. These link governor roles enable us to remain connected internally as well as having assurance by receiving regular reports from these link visits at governing body meetings.

As Governors we undertake not only scrutiny of the school, but also of ourselves. We have a calendar of scheduled meetings and link visits, and in addition attend committee meetings and convene special meetings when required. As Governors we will continue to serve our school. We can be contacted through the school and we welcome your comments and feedback at any time.

As a school we want to continue to strive for excellence and one of our intentions is to gain “Outstanding School” by OFSTED.