

## **Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Temple Sowerby Church of England Primary School 2020/21.**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of our Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, values and strategic direction.
2. Holding the Head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and for the performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its income is well spent.

The Board of Governors of Temple Sowerby Church of England Primary School is currently made up of:

- 3 parent governors
- 2 staff governors (including the Head-teacher)
- 1 Local Authority governor (still awaiting approval)
- 2 co-opted governors
- 1 Foundation governor
- 1 'ex officio' governor (Rector)

More details of the governors and of their areas of expertise can be found on the school website. This year has seen a number of governors reach the end of their terms and have been replaced by new faces with complementary skills.

The Full Governing Body meets once each term. This year all the full GB meetings have been held by 'Zoom' and have been both well attended and rigorous. The school also has 2 committees to consider different aspects of the school in more detail. The minutes of these committees feed into the meetings of the full Governing Body. These committees are:

- Teaching and Learning Committee, including a Safeguarding sub-committee
- Resources and Finance Committee

This year has been especially challenging for the school staff when dealing with the effects on pupil learning and pastoral support of the Covid 19 pandemic. A number of specific approaches were taken and the governors have paid special attention to the monitoring of these:

1. The provision of 'Remote Learning' supported by the decision in 2019 year to invest in 'Chromebooks' (enough for one for each child in classes 2 & 3), and the Google Classroom learning platform. These Chromebooks were taken home on loan during the pandemic.
2. A range of measures to ensure that pupils returning to school following 'lockdown' were supported in settling back into both the classroom and the wider school community.

3. Adaptation of the curriculum for returning pupils. Examples include wellbeing activities, opportunities for outdoor education, curriculum prioritisation in maths and a focus on investigation in our Science Week in the final term.

The work that we have completed in our committees and through direct governor involvement in school activities during the past year includes:

- Monitoring the school budget and the way we spend on pupil premium and sports premium funding.
- Discussion and agreement on the core values of the school.
- Promoting the 'Wildlife Garden' by involving the village in a number of initiatives.
- Reviewing and updating policies and procedures on a rolling basis.
- Greater involvement in the curriculum through both remote and in-school curriculum monitoring by individual governors.
- Governor training through attendance at on-line workshops on, for example, RE.
- Active promotion of the school, including continued development of the website and Facebook page.

### **Strategic Planning for the Future**

- Development of the school offering based around the success of the pre-school provision
- Support work on improving the built environment and school grounds, including the provision of an area for quiet reflection within the garden
- Continue preparations for a forthcoming OFSTED by identifying specific governors to support the inspection.
- Development of the in-house offer of the after-school club

Circulated by email for comment and approved following the full GB meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Chris Starr

Chair of Governors

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021