

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Temple Sowerby Church of England Primary School 2022/23.

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
- 2 co-opted governors (one vacancy)
- 2 Foundation governors (including Ex Officio 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 new governors join the governing body and they have all attended training to develop their skills. The new governors were recruited and selected for their areas of knowledge and expertise to complement the skill set that was already in place.

The Full Governing Body meets once each term. This year the full GB meetings have been held by in person and have been both well attended (generally only 1-2 apologies) and professional. The school also has 4 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
- Safeguarding sub-committee
- Resources and Finance Committee
- Marketing Committee

This year has been more consistent and more of a return to normal than previous years, although the school is still seeing lasting effects of the Covid pandemic. The governors have supported the school with various targets with successful results. OFSTED inspected the school in January 2023 with fantastic results.

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

- Ofsted inspection rated 'Good' with excellent comments about:
 - The strong sense of community.
 - Parents appreciate the strong support that staff provide.

- Pupils are confident that staff will listen to their concerns and worries.
 - Pupils feel safe and happy.
 - Pupils cooperate well with each other and work hard in lessons.
 - Pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), achieve well.
 - Pupils have access to a wide range of opportunities.
 - Staff feel valued.
 - Staff are overwhelmingly positive about the time and support that they receive so they can carry out their roles effectively.
 - Governors know the school well and provide effective support and challenge for leaders.
- Monitoring the school budget resulting in a healthy budget position going forwards.
 - Increased attendance with a return to pre covid levels and higher than the national average.
 - Strong pupil numbers for next year and going forward.
 - A highly experienced team of teaching staff, training for all staff in different areas including forest schools and NPQH.
 - Strong community links with tots toddler group, local National Trust property and gardens at Acorn Bank, village hall centenary celebrations and a local art project.
 - Reviewing and updating policies and procedures on a rolling basis.
 - Safeguarding review and update for all governors, as well as attention on Safer Recruitment for all appointments.
 - Active promotion of the school, including launch of the new website, regular Facebook posts and greater awareness of school branding.

Strategic Planning for the Future

- Leadership and Management – School Business Manager replacement and training, Marketing including new prospectus and Safeguarding external audit.
- Personal Development – Forest Schools
- Behaviour and Attitudes – Pupil and staff wellbeing
- Quality of Education – PE/School Games Award, RE, Handwriting.

Circulated by email for comment and approved following the full GB meeting on 15th June 2023.

Hannah Cleasby

Chair of Governors

22nd June 2023