

## **Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Temple Sowerby Church of England Primary School 2023/24.**

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
- 3 co-opted governors (one vacancy)
- 2 Foundation governors (including Ex Officio Rector, one vacancy)

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

The school has had an excellent year, making excellent progress in many areas. The governors have supported the school with various targets with successful results.

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

- Development of the PE curriculum, termly enrichment activities including climbing and yoga, moving away from the Eden Valley Sports Partnership and move forwards with the school games award.
- Updating the RE Curriculum, purchased the Questful resource.

- Implemented a new handwriting scheme that complements the Little Wandle Phonics programme.
- Promote children's wellbeing by completion of the ELSA training.
- Development of the Forest School programme, successful in applying for £2000 grant funding used to establish outdoor learning area in school, purchase tools, willow arch, waterproofs.
- Maintaining programme of enrichment activities including climbing, yoga, dance, football coaching, trips to Beamish, Chester Zoo, Eden Camp, Acorn Bank, Lowther Castle.
- Continuation of the Junior Dukes programme to develop life skills and independence.
- 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 School Business Manager, IOSH Health & Safety, SCR, Speech & Language, Fine Motor Skills in EYFS, NPQH.
- Meetings and Surveys to address staff wellbeing, flexible working considered.
- Strong community links with Tots toddler group, local National Trust property and gardens at Acorn Bank, village hall.
- 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 new photos on the website, preparation of prospectus, regular Facebook posts and greater awareness of school branding.

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

- Quality of Education - develop RE in readiness for SIAMS, promote and embed mental arithmetic in Y3/4 and KS1, develop art provision and complete Artsmark over next 2 years
- Behavior and attitudes - Review and improve collective worship – Inset training, meet with Rev Fran, promote children's involvement, establish reflection area to boost engagement
- Personal development - promote wellbeing and ensure all staff undergo programme of Mental Health first aid training
- Leadership and management - Reorganisation of classes to reflect size of year groups, establish programme of replacing current heating
- Early Years – restructure classroom to reflect changes to class structure

Circulated by email for comment and approved following full GB meeting.

Hannah Cleasby,  
Chair of Governors,

July 2024