

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Fairburn Community Primary School 2023



In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Fairburn C P School Governing Body are:

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.

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body of Fairburn C P School is made up of:

- 4 Parent Governors
 - 1 Local Authority Governor
 - 1 Staff Governor
 - 1 Staff Governor Head teacher
 - 2 Co-opted Governors
 - 1 Associate Governor
- The total number of Governors is **10**

The range of skills required to contribute to effective governance and the success of the school are reflected in the following governor experience:

- Financial Management (inc. accounting)
- Education
- Health & Safety
- Safeguarding
- Creative Arts
- Facilities Management
- Public protection
- Sales & Marketing

The governing board has a programme of meetings throughout the school year and a committee structure that focuses on Finance and Resources. Curriculum matters are discussed in each full board meeting with additional input from each class link governor following their term, class observation. The board meets four times in one academic year and the Finance & Resource committee meets in advance of the full board meetings, feeding in updates and reports accordingly. A list of Governors and their roles can be found on the school website.

<http://fairburn.n-yorks.sch.uk/>

Attendance Record of Governors

A record is kept by the Clerk to the Governing Body of Governors' attendance at meetings. Details of governor attendance can be supplied upon request.

Meetings need to be 'quorate' to ensure that key strategic decisions can be made. A meeting is quorate if 50% or more governors are in attendance.

All meetings went ahead and were quorum.

The work we have done on our committees and in the Governing Body meetings

The governors have spent time in school observing lessons and speaking with staff about progress of areas highlighted in the School Development Plan. The following priorities have been monitored by assigned governors:

- Ensured that all children have received any 'Catch - Up' provision needed as a result of the pandemic.
- To continue to raise pupil outcomes across the school so that more children achieve greater depth in their learning
- Engagement with Specialist Consultant, Advisors to further strengthen the depth of the curriculum offer for our children, notably, Phonics, Maths, RE and Music.
- Improve provision for maintaining children's emotional well- being across the school.
- Ensure that robust Safeguarding practice continues to be followed at all times. A positive Safeguarding Audit was carried out by NYCC in March with minor suggestions being implemented.
- Staff trained to a high standard to deliver Phonics with the additional enhanced phonics reading scheme provision.
- One governor has shadowed EYFS and one PP child in particular to monitor their positive progress.
- The recruitment and induction of new staff into role. (This has been key as a result of 2 very experienced senior teachers retiring this year.)
- The broadening of community and partnership engagement, notably with the Church, Community Centre, Parish Council, Friends Of the School , Betty Hastings Trust, local businesses and the Community Cafe.

Due to small cohorts, our pupil performance data is not available on our website but is accessible by contacting the school.

Financial Management

The Finance and Premises Committee have overseen the strategic financial management of the school's budget and, in particular, have discussed and implemented the following:

- Monitoring and planning of the financial position and forecast.
- All contracts reviewed to ensure best value is maintained.
- Continue to work with the Bursar to closely monitor the school's financial position and proactively respond to reduce any deficit.
- Consider external funding streams to strengthen the schools financial position.
- The financial position has been affected by the cost of living and fuel crisis . As well as staff pay increases that have not been supported by government education funding.

Policy review

All school policies are reviewed on a rolling programme and are designed on local and national evidence based practice and advice. Appropriate amendments are agreed and adopted by the Governing Body following robust discussion. Any legislative changes are also monitored and implemented in a timely manner..

Strategic Planning for the future

The following areas have been identified by the governing board as being key to securing Fairburn C P School's long term success:

- Continue to be vigilant in all areas of safeguarding.
- Continuing to further strengthen and build upon the school's success
- Continue to strengthen links with local businesses and partnerships.
- Continued awareness of the changing landscape, both locally and nationally, with regard to the academies agenda to be able to make an informed decision at a time that is right for our school.
- To ensure that the school's building and grounds continue to fully meet the needs of our growing school community.
- To effectively work towards managing the school's financial position.
- Identify external funding streams that may enable the school to access resources to further strengthen the schools delivery of education.
- Ensure robust contingency plans are in place to support any future lock down or situation where remote, home learning is needed.
- Continue to engage with Specialist Consultants (Advisors) so that the curriculum continues to broaden and support greater depth of learning for staff and children.
- Staff and governors to have a robust induction and the opportunity to access training that supports them in their role and development.

Review: September 2023