



## **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-21**

This statement seeks to outline the impact of governance arrangements at Folksworth Church of England Primary School throughout the course of the 2020-21 academic year.

### **Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance**

The Instrument of Government for Folksworth Church of England Primary School allows for 13 governors across different categories.

The Governing Body Membership currently stands at 10, with 3 vacancies that the Governing Body is actively recruiting for within the community.

Through the course of the 20-21 Academic Year, the Governing Body has lost 2 of governors and gained 2 governors in their place.

Over the course of the 2020-21 Academic Year, the Governing Body has been chaired by Clare Kirk

The work of the Governing Body has been ably supported by Janet Harris, as Clerk to Governors.

Over the course of the year, Governors at Folksworth Church of England Primary School demonstrate an overall positive attendance and engagement with their work. Further information about governor attendance can be found on the school website.

### **The Structure of Governance**

As well as meeting as a Full Governing Body, Folksworth Church of England Primary School also has two committees, in order to ensure sufficient oversight, support and accountability towards areas of identified priority and statutory coverage.

The school names these committees as:

- Resources Committee – which mainly deals with HR, Finance, Health and Safety, Premises, safer recruitment and staffing
- Standards and Ethos Committee – which mainly deals with the curriculum, assessment and data, SEND and Pupil Premium expenditure and impact, safeguarding and embedding our vision and ethos.

Both committees and the Governing Body overall have a continued oversight of the school's safeguarding responsibilities and manage the updates of school policies aligned to the particular areas of responsibility.

In addition to the above, the school also constitutes a Pay Committee and Headteacher Performance Management Panel annually.

Committees related to particular purposes such as dealing with complaints or exclusions are constituted as they are required, in line with the determining policy guidance.

### **Impact of the work of the Full Governing Body**

Over the course of the last academic year, the Governing Body has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Supporting the school's Risk Assessment with regard to Covid-19 and enabling the safe return to school for children and adults alike
- Receiving updates from the Headteacher to inform their work in response to the pandemic, in order to ensure the continued education and safety of all children.
- Overseeing updates with regard to the progress made against the School Development Plan

### **Impact of the work of the Resources Committee**

Over the course of the last academic year, the Resources Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Ensuring that the Catch Up Premium is invested effectively to provide optimum impact upon children's learning and recovery
- Discussing how best to structure the school's staffing and classes in future years to ensure a continued quality of education and financial sustainability
- Promoting improved attendance for children within school, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds

### **Impact of the work of the Standards and Ethos Committee**

Over the course of the last academic year, the Standards and Ethos Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Ensuring that children have been able to engage in remote learning with access to suitable devices
- Ensuring that school leaders have adapted the school's curriculum to accommodate children's lost learning over the course of the pandemic
- Ensuring that the school has adopted an updated curriculum approach towards teaching children about relationships and sex education, aligned to changes in Government expectations

## **Governor Training**

Governors work collectively, so we are always able to benefit from our different points of view and considerations within meetings. However, the Governing Body has also benefitted from training courses on the following topics throughout the course of the year;

- Safeguarding – in order to effectively fulfil our duties in quality assuring the safeguarding arrangements for all children at Folksworth CofE Primary School.
- Monitoring the Curriculum – in order to ensure that our monitoring and questions are informed to gather the most important information from curriculum leaders
- LA Briefings – in order to remain up to date with latest Local Authority information regarding the approaches towards safe school reopening
- Specific training on the SIAMs inspection
- Specific training to effectively complete the Head Teachers Appraisal Review

## **Governor Monitoring**

As well as attending meetings, governors are also expected to visit school to understand more about school life and particular areas of priority (typically linked with different areas of the curriculum).

Throughout the course of this year, Governors have undertaken particular monitoring in relation to;

- Safeguarding
- The Curriculum
- Premises, Health and Safety
- Remote Learning

## **Forward Planning**

Following the above impact of 20-21, the Governing Body looks forward to returning to a more “normal” structure to its work in the forthcoming academic year. This will include;

- Ensuring that the school is suitably prepared for OFSTED and SIAMs inspections
- Providing continued oversight regarding the impact of expenditure upon children’s outcomes
- Supporting the school to adopt the new Early Years Framework successfully, to become embedded as part of broader school life
- Continue to make best use of the school’s resources to enhance the teaching and learning of the school community

- Continue to develop the school's curriculum ensuring it remains broad and balanced at a time where catch up is required.
- Supporting the identification, implementation and monitoring the impact of the key priorities in the School Development Plan.

### **Other information and contact**

Further information regarding the work of the Governing Body can be found at: [www.folksworth.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.folksworth.cambs.sch.uk). This includes information regarding attendance of governors and their Declarations of Interest.

Alternately, stakeholders are always welcome to engage with the work of the Governing Body by contacting the Chair of Governors via email to [chair@Folksworth.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:chair@Folksworth.cambs.sch.uk) regarding the work of the Governing Body.