

FULBOURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-21

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

Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance

The Instrument of Government for Fulbourn Primary School allows for 14 governors across different categories. The standard constitution of similar Governing Bodies is 12.

At the end of this academic year the Governing Body Membership currently stands at 10, with 4 vacancies that the Governing Body will recruit to, following review of our constitution in the Autumn term 2021.

Through the course of the 20-21 Academic Year, the Governing Body has lost 3 governors and gained 1 governor in their place, which has slightly reduced the overall capacity and membership of our board.

Over the course of the 2020-21 Academic Year, the Governing Body has been chaired by Joy Eldridge.

The work of the Governing Body has been supported by Helen Andrews (from the CamClerk team), as Clerk to Governors.

Over the course of the year, Governors at Fulbourn Primary School demonstrate a consistently high level of 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, Fulbourn 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:

- Premises & Resources Committee – which mainly deals with HR, Finance, Health and Safety, Premises and the
- Teaching and Learning Committee – which mainly deals with the curriculum, assessment and data, SEND and Pupil Premium expenditure and impact

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 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, with a key focus on wellbeing for staff and children
- 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
- Through the hard work of the Safeguarding link governor, oversight of safeguarding processes and record-keeping
- Overseeing updates with regard to the progress made against the School Development Plan, despite the impact of the pandemic restrictions

Impact of the work of the Premises & Resources Committee

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

- Reviewing updates to the Covid risk assessments and monitoring measures to ensure the safety of the school community during the pandemic
- Understanding the impact of Covid on the school's financial position, and supporting the Headteachers to take measures to mitigate the loss of income and increased costs
- Monitoring the wellbeing of pupils, staff and SLT including the impact of remote working, in-school bubbles, and higher than usual staff absence rates due to Covid
- Supporting school leaders in the selection of and transition to a new lunch provider
- Considering proposals for a new leadership structure following the resignation of one of the Co-Headteachers and one of the Assistant Headteachers

Impact of the work of the Teaching and Learning Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Teaching & Learning Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Completing regular parent surveys to track the impact of COVID & home learning, and learn/adapt the school's approach
- Introducing Subject Link roles across the curriculum, using both governors and skilled people from the local community to review, support and challenge subject leaders in school
- Establishing a T&L monitoring schedule for 2021 - 2023 with clear objectives for the committee, triangulation of evidence and a termly focus
- Reviewing the model for reintroducing school time on Wednesday afternoons, funded by the Fulbourn Clock Charity and delivered by external providers
- Considering and planning new metrics / sources of data to assess pupil and school performance during the COVID period of disruption, both for metrics to evaluate school performance and identify areas of focus for recovery funding.

Governor Training

Governors' work is achieved 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;

- Safer Recruitment Training
- ISI Inspection Training
- G4S - Introduction to Governance
- G4S - School Performance Data
- LA - Getting Ofsted Ready
- LA - Schools funding, budgeting and financial monitoring
- NGA – Progress & Attainment

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;

- Regular on site and remote meetings between the Chair of Governors and the Co Headteachers
- Regular Health & Safety checks – on site walks

- Regular on-site Safeguarding checks and an annual audit
- Review of the operational impact of lateral flow testing for staff

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 planning effectively to gradually remove the operational restrictions of the pandemic
- Ensuring that the school is suitably prepared for OFSTED inspection
- 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
- To continue to monitor the wellbeing of staff and children as society emerges from lockdown

Other information and contact

Further information regarding the work of the Governing Body can be found at: <https://www.fulbournprimaryschool.co.uk/governance/> 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@fulbourn.cambs.sch.uk regarding the work of the Governing Body.