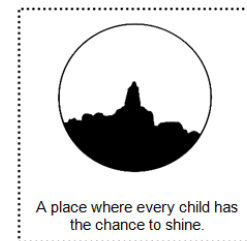


Cowling Community Primary School

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Governing Body of Cowling Community Primary School Annual Governance Statement

July 2018

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all Governing Bodies, the three core strategic functions of our Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance arrangements

We always strive to ensure the Governing Body has the blend of skills, competencies and commitment to meet the needs of the school. The constitution is as follows:

- 1 Headteacher – Susan Marshall
- 1 Local Authority Governor – Rev. Helen Collins
- 4 Co-opted Governors – Jon Batchelor, Donna Robinson, Deborah Raynsford, Jonathan McGill
- 2 Parent Governors – Jo Starr, Andy Hooper
- 1 Staff Governor – Kate Dawson

There have been no changes of personnel on the Governing Body for the last 2 years or so. During that time the team has developed its' knowledge and skills and has become a committed and capable source of support and challenge to the Headteacher and the school staff.

We welcomed our new Clerk, Paul Baxter, early in 2018. Paul's contributions to our work are already proving highly effective.

Specific experience in the following areas exists throughout the Governing Body:

- Experience/understanding of Governance;
- Understanding and experience of strategic planning;
- Experience of project management;
- Experience of Human Resources;



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- Experience of performance management appraisal;
- Experience of financial planning/management;
- Experience of premises/facilities management;
- Links with the local community/businesses;
- Knowledge of the local/regional economy.

As Governors, we are well informed, undergo induction and ongoing training and have clear areas of responsibility. We have a programme of meetings throughout the school year which focus on specific areas of governance. The full Governing Body meets every half term, 6 times a year. We also have a Data Team which meets half termly to review the educational progress and attainment being achieved and predicted for every child. We also have nominated safeguarding, Pupil Premium and Sports Funding governors.

Attendance record of governors

A record of our attendance at meetings is kept by the Clerk to the Governing Body.

Work of the Governing Body 2017/18:

Our work this year has been focused on supporting efforts to achieve progress in the areas identified in the School Improvement Plan.

The overall aim for the school is to place Cowling in the top 20% of schools nationally, with particular focus on:

- raising attainment in reading and writing in Key Stage 1 (especially boys);
- improving phonics compared to last year;
- accelerating progress in Key Stage 2 to ensure a higher percentage of pupils achieve the higher standard.



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Governors have focused on these areas through visiting school, undertaking learning walks and work scrutiny, interviewing pupils and staff members, delivering challenge at Governing Body meetings, detailed analysis of relevant data both at Data Team and Full Governor Body meetings and informal discussions with the Leadership Team.

The school currently receives Pupil Premium Funding to support the learning of some children. It is important the Governing body monitors how money is spent, and what the impact of that spend is on the childrens' learning. To that end we now have a Pupil Premium Champion, and the Governing Body receive regular Pupil Premium reports from the Headteacher.

The Governing Body has continued to monitor the political landscape around Academisation. At this stage the school has no plan to change its status.

During the Spring term, we approved the 2017/18 budget plan for the school. As funding from central government fails to keep up with additional costs imposed on schools, our budget at Cowling is becoming more difficult to manage. Despite this we continue to support the Headteacher in maintaining current staffing levels and resources, without which the quality of education our children receive would inevitably suffer.

We have received training in relation to Safeguarding, Safer Recruitment and data analysis.

We plan to revisit our skills and training needs audit in the Autumn term and will source appropriate further training for all Governors during the next academic year.

Approved minutes can be obtained by contacting the Clerk, Gilly Guy at the address below.

Strategic Planning for the future

We will continue to rigorously monitor progress against the School Improvement Plan and work closely with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to ensure the School is the best it can be, welcoming external support when required.



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We will work on strategies identified from the Governing Body self-evaluation exercise to continue to improve our working practices. We will exercise strong stewardship and support and challenge in all areas to ensure the highest possible standards for the benefit of students and value for money.

How to contact your governing body

Information about the School's Governing Body is available on the Governors' page of the School website <http://www.cowling.n-yorks.sch.uk>. The Clerk to the Governors, Gilly Guy can be contacted at Gilly.Guy@northyorks.gov.uk