



Leadgate Primary School Annual Governance Statement

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22

The Department for Education requires that Governing Bodies publish an annual statement to parents. Governing Bodies are the key strategic decision makers and vision setters in every school and academy and play a major part in the school's accountability.

Governing Bodies have a vital role to play in driving up school and pupil performance and ensuring that resources are used well to ensure every child has the best possible education.

As the Governing Body of Leadgate Primary School we are proud of the school and its warm, welcoming, inclusive and strong family atmosphere. We fully support the school vision - "Caring , Sharing , Learning Together".

In accordance with the Government's requirements the Governing Body at Leadgate Primary School concentrates on the three core strategic functions:

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

Governance Make Up

In order to do this during the academic year 2020/2021 the Governing Body was made up of 11 governors as follows:

- 1 Parent Governors (1 vacancy also)
- 1 Local Authority Governor appointed by the Local Authority,
- 1 Staff Governor appointed by ballot of the staff,
- 1 Headteacher,
- 7 Co-opted governors appointed by the governing body based on a skills audit.

School governors are all volunteers and give a huge amount of their time for the benefit of the children. Governors (aside from the Headteacher) are all appointed, they are independent and have equal status to each other and while they may represent the views of their appointing body, they act first and foremost in the best interests of the school.

A Chair and Vice Chair are elected by the Governing Body and both work closely with the Headteacher and the Clerk. A professional Clerk is appointed (from the local Authority) who organises the meetings, takes minutes and follows up on any actions. The Clerk works

closely with the Chair and Headteacher and advises on procedural matters and therefore plays a pivotal role in the work of the Governing Body.

Training

To effectively fulfil its role, the Governing Body must ensure that all its governors have the required skills and knowledge to support the achievement of the school's priority objectives. All members of Governing Body have undertaken training and, supported by the training governor, continue to do so. During the pandemic, training has been provided remotely by the Local Authority and members of the school's leadership team. The impact of this is that the Governing Body has kept up to date regarding the latest requirements and expectations from the Department for Education, vital during this period of uncertainty with policies and plans changing rapidly, and governors are able to understand and challenge the information and data presented to them by the school.

Impact of Full Governing Body Meetings

The Governing Body met 10 times over the 2021/22 academic year to inspect, review and agree school policies and monitor progress against the School Improvement Plan which identifies the key areas on which the school and the Governing Body wish to focus during the academic year.

Despite ongoing periods of COVID disruption in 2021/22 the Governing Body continued to meet virtually with every meeting being quorate and overall attendance and commitment by governors remaining high. As well as continuing to meet its statutory obligations, the Governing Body maintained a particular focus on the wellbeing of the headteacher, the staff, and children and on the complexities of continued work to rebuild after the disruption of the pandemic. Between Full Governing Body meetings, members of the Governing Body remained in close contact with the headteacher providing support, considering and approving risk assessments, and monitoring the continued provision of learning.

The Governing body also took minutes from committee meetings held termly by the Curriculum and Standards Committee, The Finance and Premises Committee and the First pay review Committee. Recommendations were also taken from the Head Teachers Appraisal committee.

The Headteacher's Appraisal is supported by an external Education advisor from within the County. The Governing Body and the committees all have clear terms of reference.

Despite some comparative data being unavailable due to the cancellation of national tests in the summers of 2020 and 2021, the Full Governing Body continued to ask questions to ensure the school's standards and expectations are high and scrutinised pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups, with a particular view to ensuring post COVID catch up support was well targeted.

The major focus for the Governing Body in the last 12 months has been on :

- 1) Ongoing Covid Recovery and its Impact on Learners and Whole School Staff to provide a safe environment for learning through careful risk assessment and management.
- 2) Developing the role of Early Years leadership and Provision in light of Statutory changes.
- 3) Development of Phonics and Whole School Reading.
- 4) Managing changing School Finances and Funding.
- 5) Review of School Curriculum Intent and long term aims – including redevelopment of additional opportunities and provision.

The following Governors also have a specific monitoring role within the overall Governing Body :

Name	Responsibilities
Mr Neil Jackson (Vice Chair of Governors) Declared Interest In Happy Smile Nursery provider	SEND, Safeguarding, Computing, E-Safety
Mr John Brierley	Maths
Mrs Vicki Cooper	Early Years Foundation Stage
Mr Andrew Plant (Chair of Governors)	English, Pupil Premium and Sports Premium, Health and Safety
Miss Lucy Scarr	Anti-bullying
Cllr Alan Shield	MAT
Ms Estelle Spring	Well-being, Reading
Mr Mark Watson	Head Teacher
Miss Laura Weaver	GDPR
Mrs Debbie Wilson	Science

How you can contact the Governing Board?

We would love to hear your views and opinions on our school. The school sends out an annual parent questionnaire – usually in the Summer Term, and we strongly urge all parents to take the time to complete it to help us understand what priorities are important to you. If in the meantime you would like to discuss a particular issue, please contact the Chair (Mr Andy Plant) in writing via the school office marked 'for the attention of the Chair of Governors'.

You can also look out for governors at school events. If you or somebody you know would like to join the Governing Board or find out more about what we do, please feel free to contact the school or pass your name to the school office and one of us will get back to you at the first opportunity.

We look forward to another busy and productive year in 2022-23.