

## Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of Elmstead Primary School

September 2019

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing boards, the three core strategic functions of the Elmstead Primary School Governing Board 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 pupils;**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

### **Governance arrangements**

The Governing Board of Elmstead Primary School consists of 13 Governors:

- 2 Parent Governors
- 2 Staff Governors (one to be the Headteacher)
- 1 Governor appointed by the Local Authority
- 3 Partnership Governors
- 5 Co-opted Governors.

Co-opted and Partnership governors are appointed by the Governing Board and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Board, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. The Full Governing Board meets once each term, and we also have three committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail who also meet termly.

Minutes of Governing Board and Committee meetings are public documents – you can ask at the School Office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.

We currently have vacancies on the Governing Board and are looking for volunteers for this very important role. Of particular interest, would be those with financial expertise. Please contact the Headteacher if you feel you could support the school by becoming a Governor.

<p><b>Attendance record of Governors</b></p>	<p>It is a legal requirement to publish attendance at all Governor meetings. These details are published separately on the school website.</p>
<p><b>A review of 2018 – 2019</b></p>	<p><b>Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction</b></p> <p>The Governing Board has continued to focus on the strategic direction for the school by looking at the potential for creating a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) with Great Bentley and Frinton Primary Schools. The creation of this MAT is taking longer than anticipated and is still ongoing. We had hoped to have it functioning within the 2018-2019 academic year. The Governors still feel this vision for our school is the right way forward and sincerely hope we will have more news about this in the next academic year.</p> <p><b>Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils</b></p> <p>The Governors are pleased to see the school’s academic results for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 continue to be good, performing in line with or above the average for Primary Schools in Essex as well as Nationally.</p> <p>We monitor the progress of all our pupils on a regular basis and are encouraged to visit the school to see pupil progress for ourselves. Much praise must go to all the teachers and support staff for their consistently high expectations and their commitment to ensure every pupil reaches their potential.</p> <p>We should particularly like to mention the exceptional work of Mrs Pip Higgins who retired from our school in August 2019 after being a teacher at Elmstead Primary for twenty-two years. We wish her a very happy retirement.</p> <p>The Governing Board continue to believe the children who attend Elmstead Primary School must have a broad and balanced curriculum and, although we are judged on our academic results, other areas of the curriculum are vitally important. Of particular note was the development of the teaching of Computing, the excellent Sports Day, the continuing commitment to the Golden Mile for all pupils, the Christmas productions, the Kingswood residential experience for Year 6 and the Open the Book Assembly links with our local Churches.</p>

	<p><b>Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.</b></p> <p>The Governing Board takes its duty to ensure the school finances are well-managed very seriously. It has been a very difficult year financially due to the limit on funding that we receive with expenditure costs rising. The Governors supported the local campaign to secure fairer funding for all schools from central Government. We are very pleased rigorous oversight of expenditure meant we did not need to make staff redundant but we are always mindful this might need to be an option if we cannot generate more income ourselves. To this end, we are pleased to see the school is delivering training sessions on the White Rose Maths scheme to support other schools and we are generating an income through this. The Breakfast Club was taken in house and we are starting an After School Club from September 2019.</p> <p>The refurbishment of the Early Years and Key Stage 1 outside areas has been completed and looks very exciting. We hope the pupils will enjoy using them. The maintenance of the school site will be kept as a focus for the next academic year.</p> <p>We continue to be very grateful to the Elmstead Primary School Association for all their fundraising activities.</p>
<p><b>Future Plans</b></p>	<p>The Governing Board will continue to support the Headteacher and all the school staff in their quest to raise standards in every aspect of school life.</p> <p>It is important for all staff to have continuous professional development and we will support the Headteacher in offering as many opportunities as we can afford.</p> <p>The development of the Multimedia room has begun during the summer holidays and we look forward to its completion in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>The links with Great Bentley and Frinton Primary Schools will further develop for the benefit of all our pupils.</p>
<p><b>How you can contact the Governing Board</b></p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Polly Lewis, via the School Office.</p>