

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Shield Row Primary School 2017

School Vision/Mission Statement



The Governing Body of Shield Row Primary School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

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, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Shield Row Primary School is currently made up of ten governors: three member appointed governors (including the Chair and Vice- chair), the Head Teacher, one LA governor, two members of staff and four Parent Governors. There are currently no vacancies. The full Governing Body meets once a term and there are also sub-committees: Finance, Progress and Achievement which also meet regularly. The first one is self-explanatory whilst the latter looks at all aspects of education, progress and attainment. There are also sub-committees which meet as and when required i.e. Personnel, Pay Review, Finance and Appeals. As part of a multi-academy trust (Tudhoe Learning Trust) the TLT Board of Directors also meet each term. The Executive Head and Directors are legally responsible for the results from all academies and overall financial running of the Trust.

Attendance record of the governors

Governors and directors have generally good attendance at meetings, and school has never cancelled a full governing body meeting because it was not “quorate”.

The work that we have done on our Committees and in the Governing Body

There is a productive and strong working relationship between the governing body and the school staff. The head teacher and the chair and vice chair of governors meet regularly, as do other governors with school leaders. The level of challenge presented in meetings is now appropriate in holding leaders to account for the performance of the school. Governors visit school and experience its work first hand. In the past year the Governing Body has continued to focus on school improvement particularly in relation to improving the quality of teaching, learning and assessment so that outcomes improve for all groups of children. In the coming year, governors will be focusing on outcomes at the end of key stage 2, in particular outcomes for disadvantaged and SEND children. Staffing is beginning to stabilise after a period of instability in school. Governors have been consulted in the strategic deployment of high performing staff to arrest a decline in standards in Key Stage 2, due to a legacy of underachievement linked to before school became an academy. School now has a clear staffing structure, where staff are beginning to perform well

	<p>and are clear about their roles and responsibilities. Governors ensure safeguarding arrangements are met. The progress committee has met and discussed pupil achievement, to ensure leaders are focused on, and are on track to ensure ambitious targets for all pupils are met. Governors have posed questions about outcomes and its link to spending for groups of children. Particular focus has been made on how Pupil Premium money is being spent by the school and its impact on children's outcomes.</p>
<p>Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body</p>	<p>After a period of turbulence, school is beginning to operate effectively. Governors now have a clear view of school's performance and are resolute in holding leaders to account for ensuring good progress is made in addressing issues and weaknesses from the past. Key aspects of school's work have improved significantly in the last 3 terms. The governing body feel that it is essential that school leaders continue to drive forward improvements so that the gains made in pupil outcomes in EYFS, phonics and KS1, as well as pupil behaviour and attendance, are long lasting and sustainable. Governors recognise their role in monitoring the work of school and the need to hold leaders to account for performance. Clear strategic planning is central to this. At the start of each academic year, the Senior Leadership Team produces a School Improvement Plan, in consultation with specific members of staff, Governors and the Executive Head. This Plan lays out what requires doing to maintain the progress being made and identifies where additional work needs to be done to move all aspects of school's work to a good or better level of performance. Each July the chair of governors meets with the headteacher and receives an initial update on results from KS2 exam results. Then in late October/early November the Progress committee meet to discuss school's performance against national benchmarks, once National data is available. This forms the basis for what governors and SLT monitor and drives the focus of the governing body's work. Ensuring pupil outcomes improve at the end of Key Stage 2 will be a vital aspect of the governing body's work in this coming year.</p> <p>Governors also pair with a member of staff who has a responsibility for a certain area of the curriculum and they meet periodically to discuss and review the progress made across different areas. The Head Teacher also produces a report each term, which is presented at the full Governing Body meeting. This covers class structure and organisation, staff information and responsibilities and an update on overall performance which follows the latest Ofsted criteria. There are also sections on the Performance Management of staff, Pupil Premium spending, Sports Premium spending, if there are any looked after children, exclusions, and any incidents which require reporting. Governors are able to ask questions of the Head Teacher.</p>
<p>Assessment of Impact</p>	<p>There are a number of different sources where the impact of what the staff and governors are doing can be measured. Comprehensive "school to school reviews" take place every 6 months, with an independent Education Development Partner (EDP) validating the judgements made in order to provide an independent assessment of school performance. The Executive</p>

	<p>Head teacher is also involved in monitoring visits on a regular basis to validate the work of the school, including its governance.</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) publish data for both schools and parents: - Inspection Dashboard and School league tables, which both can be seen on the website.</p> <p>School inspections are also carried out by OFSTED – these inspections provide a rigorous testing of the schools judgement as to how well the school is doing. Shield Row Primary School (Pre-Academy Conversion) was inspected by OFSTED in September 2014 and was placed in Special Measures. (Since this occurred a full review of governance has taken place).</p>
<p>Future plans for the Governing Body</p>	<p>Staff and Governors work tirelessly to improve the quality of education at Shield Row Primary School. The governors and the SLT are resolute in their determination to improve school further so that it becomes a GOOD school in the very near future. The governing body acknowledges the findings of the 2014 Ofsted and subsequent review of governance and have taken action to remedy any weaknesses. Governors have increased the level of challenge in holding leaders to account and as a result key aspects of school's work are now improving. The governing body is keen to build on this so that "Leadership and Management" receives a GOOD grading from OFSTED when school is next inspected. Governors are determined to ensure children make good or outstanding progress in school. So that this is realised, future plans include holding the head teacher to account for improvements in Key Stage 2 outcomes, particularly in relation to narrowing gaps for disadvantaged children and increasing in the % of pupils reaching the higher (greater depth) standard.</p>
<p>Contact Details</p>	<p>The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school office.</p> <p>Details of the full Governing Body are on the school website.</p>