



Shiremoor Primary School Governing Body Annual Statement 2020/21

The Governing Body works continually behind the scenes to support and challenge the work of the Senior Leadership Team to ensure:

- A safe and secure learning environment
- High academic standards
- A broad and balanced curriculum

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, our three strategic functions 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 the money is well spent

Our Governing Body reconstituted in September 2015 to meet statutory requirements and to ensure we have the best structure and combination of skills and competencies to meet the needs of the school.

Our constitution is as follows:

- 2 Parent Governors
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 1 Staff Governor
- 7 Co-opted Governors
- Head teacher
- 12 Governors in total

Governors are well informed, undergo induction and ongoing training and have clear areas of responsibility.

- Strategic leadership that sets and champions, ethos and strategy.
- Accountability that drives up educational standards and financial performance.
- People with the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity.
- Structures that reinforce clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
- Compliance with statutory and contractual requirements.
- Evaluation to monitor and improve the quality and impact of governance.

A record of attendance is kept by the clerk to the Governing Body

The Full Governing Body has met on 3 occasions. Attendance 69%

Finance and Premises Committee has met on 3 occasions. Attendance 86%

Pay Committee has met on 1 occasion. Attendance 100%

Health and Committee has met on 1 occasion. Attendance 100%

Governors also held 4 Covid briefings. Attendance 64%

Meetings need to be quorate to ensure that decisions can be made. Where decisions have to be made quickly governors have agreed to be contacted by email.

Approved minutes can be obtained by contacting the clerk to the Governors via the school office.

Key Issues during 20/21

- Governors supported school throughout the covid19 challenges faced by school and ensured that every action was taken to safeguard staff and children. Governors supported a day of closure prior to the half-term holiday when 18 children tested positive over a couple of days and the cases could be tracked to an outbreak in the local community playground.
- Governors supported the purchase of IT equipment required to enable more children be able to access home learning. Governors also monitored our remote learning offer to ensure it was robust and worked with the senior leadership team around any workload matters arising.
- Governors recognised the challenges faced by the school in managing the year of covid19 whilst also having to support 4 staff in home working due to being vulnerable. They supported additional staffing to try and make this easier for other staff in school.
- Governors were keen to ensure that, despite covid19 challenges, the offer for our children remained robust and supported employment of a Spanish specialist and a music specialist who were also able to contribute to our remote offer. Governors continued to check that staff were having training opportunities in our other curriculum areas such as the training around fieldwork in Geography as this had been picked up in monitoring.
- Governors continued to offer challenge around health and safety by attending fire drills, challenging risk assessments and touring school when possible to check on equipment.

Impact on School Improvement:

- The home learning offer for children was robust and ensured children could learn across the curriculum
- Health and Safety measures taken made staff feel safe in school despite covid19
- Children attended school well and, when they couldn't attend, many were able to access learning via technology provided by school.
- The Headteacher felt supported in managing the school safely whilst still ensuring that school could move on.

Moving forward into 21/22:

- Governors will support in school visits to monitor aspects of our curriculum as we return to 'normal'
- Governors will ensure that all safety procedures are reviewed with our return.
- Governors are mindful that the school is supporting an increasing number of vulnerable and SEN children with fewer financial resources and will be working with the Head to ensure that we allocate spend appropriately for pupils whilst also retaining the capacity to bring some money in.
- Governors understand that we needed to pre-emptively overstaff in two key year groups whilst managing a maternity and that this means that we have 3 ECTs who must be enabled in having their entitled offer.
- Governors recognise the lack of space in school due to increased targeting of children and overstaffing and have invested in an additional, covid safe room to be purpose erected outdoors.

How to contact the Governing Body

Clerk to Governors – Mrs K Quinn via the school office or:

Telephone 0191 2524188

Email office@shiremoor-primary.co.uk