

# Shiremoor Primary School Governing Body Annual Statement

## 2019/20

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.
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- Accountability that drives up educational standards and financial performance.
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- People with the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity.
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- Structures that reinforce clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
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- Compliance with statutory and contractual requirements.
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- 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 4 occasions. Attendance 72%

Finance Committee has met on 4 occasions. Attendance 61%

Pay Committee has met on 1 occasion. Attendance 60%

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 2019/20**

- Governors made the decision to have the Headteacher return to her substantive post after Shiremoor was able to get a failing school into a secure position moving forward and supported the Head of School at Shiremoor in moving into the Headship of Backworth Park Primary to ensure the school continued to be strongly led with the continued support of our soft federation.
- Governors recognised that the movement of the Head of School, provided an opportunity within our succession planning structure to appoint a Deputy Head and supported in this recruitment along with the structuring of the Leadership Team moving forward.
- Governors wanted to ensure that our curriculum was well-embedded and had an external audit in the form of some subject inspections carried out by a trained Ofsted inspector.
- Governors also conducted various visits and Deep Dives to ensure the quality of teaching and learning across school.
- Governors were concerned re results of reading SATs 2019 and explored this and continued to ensure that reading is a priority and that the reading strategy is strong across school.
- Covid19 created an unprecedented situation for school and Governors had very regular meetings to support risk assessment and ensure that school leaders and staff were supported in well-being but also in terms of the continued offer of education to pupils being educated at home whilst also providing childcare and ensuring safeguarding of all.

### **Impact on School Improvement**

- During Covid19 outbreak, Shiremoor Primary School had a very robust remote learning offer and was able to provide childcare for all who needed it and went above and beyond for families. In addition, school not only followed Government guidelines in returning Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, but was also successful in allowing all children from every year group, the opportunity to return to school for between 2 and 6 days prior to summer closure. Children were provided with summer work.
- Following this period of Covid19, Governors have supported in evaluating our response and creating a remote learning policy and offer to ensure that, should this situation arise again, we are in a strong position to continue our offer.
- Governors are aware that communication with parents has been strong and that feedback from parents throughout Covid19 situation has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Governors are aware that despite a challenging year, Shiremoor, as a National Support School, and Teaching School, has continued to give advice and support to others.

### **Moving forward into 2020/21**

- Governors will support school moving into September to ensure the safety of staff and pupils as they return to school in an on-going Covid19 pandemic
- Governors recognise that many children, despite best efforts of school, have missed out on a huge amount of learning and are likely to be in need of stringent catch-up and academic progress, alongside an ability to manage home learning in case of further self-isolation and lockdown.
- Governors are aware that we have 3 members of staff on Maternity Leave plus a seconded member of staff and the movement of a member of senior leadership team to a different type of post and that this is all as we are managing a very new situation moving into September however, Governors also know that we have the infrastructure to support this.
- Management of finance will be crucial this year as school will be bringing in a very reduced income and we have to manage the staffing implications and also the funding required for covid19, which is significant.
- Governors recognise that we may not be able to offer all of the wider opportunities that our children generally have but will support school in managing as much as possible during the continued risk posed by Covid19.
- Ensuring the excellent offer that we provide whilst facing a significantly more challenging year will be the overarching priority.

### **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](mailto:office@shiremoor-primary.co.uk)