

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of Canterbury Road Primary School 2022-2023

In accordance with the Government's requirements for all governing boards, the three core strategic functions of Canterbury Road Primary School Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity and vision, ethos, and strategic direction
- Holding senior leaders to account for the educational performance and achievement of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial management of the school and making sure that its money is effectively and appropriately spent.

We are a small governing body working within the Circle Model (Whole Governing Board Approach) Adopted September 2018. The Governing Board works as a 'whole team', meeting 6 times per year, twice in each term, without any separate committees. An agenda for each meeting will include all the tasks which the Governing Board is required to consider, and the Governing Board will 'commission' assignments or activities arising from the business of the meeting, which will be recorded in the minutes and are available from the school office, on request.

Our governors have been and will continue to be recruited to match skills identified to provide effective governance of the school or those voted in to represent to views of our parents. All governors are required to complete an annual skills audit to identify any gaps in knowledge, enabling us to provide appropriate training or collaboration with our neighbouring schools to enhance our experience.

The core responsibility of the Governing Board is to provide strategic leadership, through monitoring and evaluation of core activities, that link directly to the School Improvement Plan, using data analysis alongside the school self-review.

Governors work during the last academic year (2021-2022)

Due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic, both governing board meetings and monitoring visits have been a blend of face to face and virtual, to ensure the safety of all. However, from February 2022 we have resumed face to face meetings as our preferred option.

Governors make monitoring visits to the school or virtually on a termly basis focusing on school priorities. During this monitoring, governors analyse practice and data and/or discuss progress towards targets and the effectiveness of the plan and action. They then report back to the full governing body for discussion so impact can be discussed and measured. Governors also attend school events such as the Summer and Christmas fairs, sports' days, and educational and cultural school events such as theatre productions and trips to museums. Governors are seen as the critical friend to the school and work with the staff for the good of the school.

This year, Governors have monitored key areas of the school improvement plan and the progress and attainment of all children in the school. They have asked questions

and ensured that the school is gaining value for money, for example - its use of the Covid funding. Training for the governing body is ongoing. Governors have all updated their knowledge, understanding and competence with regard to changed safeguarding and anti-radicalisation statutory requirements. All governors have reviewed and updated their Enhanced DBS checks to ensure that these meet the new requirements which came into effect in September 2016. All governors have read KCSIE 2021.

Impact

- Governors monitor and analyse progress against targets in the School Improvement Plan and hold the leadership to account during visits and in meetings. For example, regarding the target of pupils in EYFS children attaining at least in line with national average in GLD, literacy and number, governors visited the class, talked to pupils and staff and scrutinised data. This will continue to be a focus next year and governors will continue to work with the school towards this.
- Governors also monitored curriculum enrichment activities and how the children responded to the school's partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company for example. The Governing Body found this to be an invaluable investment and worth the financial cost.
- Governors saw how the leadership team ensure standards of achievement, attainment and teaching are high through the effective and thorough use of data tracking and lesson and book monitoring. The Governing Body observed how the quality of teaching was paramount to pupil success and the steps the leadership team take to ensure this remains high.
- Governors have a good understanding of how the school measures progress and attainment and are able to scrutinise data and hold leaders to account. This enables governors to have an independent overview of statutory data and can assess the school's success.

Contacting the Governing Board:

We welcome suggestions, feedback, ideas and support from all of our stakeholders. Please contact the Chair of Governors – Mrs Lindsey Glanville via the school office or website