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| **2021-22 Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Green Lane Church of England Primary School, Barnard Castle** |
| In accordance with the Government’s requirements for all governing bodies the 3 core strategic functions of Green Lane CE School’s governing body 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, and the performance management of staff; 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent. |
| **Governance arrangements** | The Governing Body of the school was re-constituted in 2015 and consists of the following members: The Headteacher, one staff governor, six elected parent governors, one Local Authority governor, four foundation governors and four co-opted governors. Foundation governors are appointed by the Durham Diocesan Board of Education in liaison with Barnard Castle Parish Church and, whilst contributing to the work of the whole governing body have a particular role in overseeing the Christian Ethos and the Character Education of the school. The Full Governing Body meets once a term with a number of sub committees considering different aspects of school life in greater detail. Currently we have the following committees: • Curriculum and Performance • Finance, Premises, Personnel and High Force• Christian Ethos We also have committees that meet as required/yearly to consider appeals and pay review. |
| **Attendance record of Governors** | Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not quorate (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). |
| **The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body** | **2021 Summary**: The last two years have been dominated by the pandemic and much of the work of the governing body has been to support the Headteacher and the staffing team shape the school’s response to what has been and continues to be a hugely challenging, emotional, draining period for educational settings.The school has invested much time and resources into supporting pupil and staff wellbeing with the governing body supporting moves to expand the pastoral support offered by the Deputy Headteacher. Governing body support has also been dominated by the return of all pupils to school in September 2021 with the removal of class bubbles; expanding and reviewing previous risk assessments to allow this to happen. A monumental effort by all involved and a big thank you to our fabulous staff team and our volunteers for everything they have done to make this a reality. The first two weeks attendance was in the high 90% which shows how confident parents felt about returning their children to the school’s care. Staff felt reassured by all the measures put in place and they also returned feeling positive about the future.Unfortunately keeping the school fully open proved to be a huge logistical problem – there was not a week that went by when we didn’t have a member of staff either self-isolating or shielding which put considerable pressure on our supply budget. The committee with responsibility for finance have ensured that budgets for staff cover, cleaning and maintenance were monitored closely and increased where required to safeguard pupil and staff welfare.Over the lockdown the school has brought the agenda of wellness and mental health closer to its heart – and the benefits of doing so have been tangible not just within school but also in a wider context across the town – this has given us the opportunity to evaluate our core values and to realise perhaps more than ever before quite how vital they are and that they are the building blocks upon which all else is built. Despite the challenges of the pandemic the Governors have discussed and supported measures around curriculum design as the school has addressed its School Improvement plan. In 2022 the governing body hopes to support subject leads as they look to evaluate curriculum changes and make amendments that ensure the school offers enriched experiences to all its learners.**Curriculum and Performance**: At this committee governors assess pupil progress against agreed targets by analysing and challenging data presented by staff. The progress of those children receiving pupil and catchup premium funding from the government is monitored as part of this process. The implications of our analysis are discussed. The committee has focused intensely on the Character Education element of school improvement, ensuring that subject leads weave the core values and the teaching of them within each of the curriculum areas – with the intention of giving Green Lane a unique perspective as a school with the aim of becoming a fully-fledged Character Education school by 2023. There has also been an opportunity to reflect on the monitoring and evaluation of teaching within Green Lane and the committee helped develop a new model based more around the current inspection framework but linking it into our core values and the aspects of school we want to see exemplified. The new monitoring model will move away from termly whole lesson observations towards a more regular focused classroom review that involves tracking pupil progress, coaching discussions with teachers and interviews with children to gauge their views on their personal learning experience.*The committee’s main aims moving forward are to help staff develop a strong experience rich curriculum with subject leads both supported and challenged in a constructive way by subject specific governors, so that pupils at Green Lane are even better prepared for the next stage of their education.***Finance, Premises, Personnel and High Force**: This Committee oversees the school’s budgets (including those for specific projects or purposes – Sports Premium, Pupil and Catchup Premium) and notes and challenges any variations reported. It has oversight of major building/premises matters.It plays a role in reviewing school policies such as Teacher’s Pay; Health and Safety and Fire Safety. Recently the committee has played a major role in the reduction of supply costs through the development of an in school team of Higher Level Teaching Assistants who cover short term sickness, some planning, preparation and assessment time and enhance the learning outcomes for pupils. It has also supported the school in the allocation of increased funding during the pandemic to support catchup and to ensure that supplies of cleaning and maintenance materials are sufficient to meet the increasing needs of the school during this challenging period for educational establishments.This has been a time of change at High Force Education. Recruitment, supported by governors, took place for a Deputy Director of ITT to start in September 2021, initially for two years, with Gemma Firmin the successful candidate. This brought to an end the secondment period and makes the school directly responsible for the supervision and management of this role. Governors have supported the change to a hub learning model which it is hoped will sustain levels of trainee teacher recruitment. The governors have supported the work undertaken to adapt and rewrite the curriculum at High Force following DfE guidance. More emphasis has been placed on ‘how to teach a subject’ – preparing trainees to teach all subjects in the curriculum – this has required the subject tutors to think more deeply about their subjects and to concentrate on the specifics of subject pedagogy personalised to their topic.*The committee’s main aims moving forward are to ensure that funding is used to support pupil learning over the next few years so that catchup during and following the pandemic is as high as it can be. The committee will look to direct funds to improvements to the school environment also, to embed the Character Education elements the Governing Body is so keen to see exemplified. The committee will also look at recruitment of trainees to High Force and its long term viability, taking decisions that ensure teacher training remains a part of Green Lane for years to come.***Christian Ethos**: The school works hard to promote a positive working, learning, respectful, caring environment for its pupils, staff and volunteers. This committee supported the school during its 2019 Church of England (SIAMs) inspection playing a major part in its achievement of the top grading – Excellent. The committee has also conducted a number of learning walks aimed at embedding the school’s core Christian values and seeing its mission statement from St John’s Gospel brought to life, it has also introduced a termly service of Holy Communion for the school to which members of St Mary’s congregation have been invited. The committee has helped develop and deliver termly pop-up prayer space events in school even during the pandemic. The committee helps improve RE provision through subject specific scrutinies.*The committee’s main aims moving forward are to ensure that the school continues down the Character Education path – carrying out further learning walks which look at the improvements coming to the school environment and being a critical friend to the Headteacher and school staff as they seek to increase the opportunities for personal growth and development within Green Lane’s curriculum.*The Full Governing Body receives termly updates from each of its committees. Each of its meetings devotes considerable time to the Headteacher’s report so that governors have ample time to challenge and support. National Government & Local Authority guidance is received at this meeting. |
| **Contact Details** | The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school office. |