

Annual Governance Statement
Hemswell Cliff Primary School Governing Body
July 2020

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Hemswell Cliff Primary School 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.**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body comprises of:

- 1 Head Teacher Governor.
- 3 Co-opted Governors, appointed by governors to represent local community interests.
- 3 Parent Governors, appointed by election.
- 1 Staff Governor, selected by election from teachers and support staff.

There are vacancies on the Governing body for a Local Authority Governor, and for 3 Co-opted Governors.

The Governing Body has welcomed two new governors this year. Mr Simon Burrows, he is a Co-opted Governor and will also sit on the Resources committee. Mrs Natalie Smith is a Staff Governor and will sit on the full Governing Body.

The full Governing Body meets once each term and holds an extra meeting in May to review and agree to the school budget before it is submitted to the Local Authority.

The Governing Body utilises a sub-committee; the Resources committee has a large remit including the maintenance and development of the school premises, making decisions about how school should use the budget, making decisions on teachers' pay and addressing any personnel issues should these arise.

Attendance Record

Governor attendance at meetings is good and a meeting has never been cancelled for not being quorate. Having the vacant positions filled will make arranging meetings around individual's work commitments much easier.

Effectiveness and Impact

Each class has a governor assigned to it and that governor will conduct termly visits to the class to speak to children and discuss progress with teachers. Monitoring visits were maintained until the COVID-19 crisis; during that time governors completed virtual visits to school.

This year Hemswell Cliff has entered a soft federation with Willoughton Primary School. This means Mrs Waplinton will be the Head Teacher of both schools and will split her time equally between both locations. The federation is an excellent opportunity for both schools to collaborate at all levels and identify best practice from mutual understanding.

The federation has been working well since its introduction in April 2020. It has provided an opportunity to share resources. This was invaluable during the time schools were open to key workers; the schools were able to merge during that time to ensure children and staff were safe and could maintain social distance. It was also of benefit when Willoughton School was required to close for building works. Ordinarily the school would have been closed to children, the federation between the schools allowed Willoughton staff and children to safely remain open by using the facilities at Hemswell Cliff School.

Throughout the year governors have monitored the school budget to ensure correct allocation of funds and value for money. Particular attention was paid to how pupil premium funding is utilised for the benefit of those pupils. Governors want to offer thanks to the School Administrator for the constant and fastidious management of the budget, always ensuring it is presented to governors in a timely and easy to explain format.

The coronavirus outbreak has meant unprecedented times for schools and for school staff. All members of staff have responded remarkably and as usual have worked tirelessly to provide a safe setting for the education of children. Governors have been honored to work with a school where the safety and wellbeing of children is put first at all times.

During this time governors have still been able to meet and hold meetings using virtual conferencing methods. These new ways of working have presented their own challenges but have not prevented the output of the Governing Body.

Governing Body

Minutes of governor meetings are public records and are available upon request from the school office.

We welcome feedback, suggestions and ideas from parents please feel free to contact the chair of governors, Mr Longstaffe, through the school office. More information about the Governing Body can be found on the Governors page on the school website.

Mr Gary Longstaffe
Chair of Governors