

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Fingringhoe C of E (VA) Primary School

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At Fingringhoe C of E Primary School, we are proud of the supportive learning ethos which underpins our core values for pupils and staff alike. We aim to inspire a love of learning in all of our children, within the context of our Christian values – courage, care and compassion.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all Governing Bodies, the three core strategic functions of our 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
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

During the course of the school year from September 2017, we have been focused on continuing to drive and support improvement and addressing areas for development.

In November 2017, the school was inspected under the 'Statutory Inspection of Methodist and Anglican Schools' framework (SIAMS) and the outcome of this inspection was 'good'. Inspectors commented that:

- Much has been achieved in a relatively short space of time on Fingringhoe's journey to school improvement. Given the fact that the school community has changed with regard to many key members of staff, the school's Christian character has been a constant.
- Governors are effective and take their roles very seriously and are committed to the quality of wellbeing for every child and adult. They have addressed areas from the previous inspection well. They are enthusiastic in their dedication.
- Progress data across the school has improved and is much better when compared to previous years. Most pupils across both key stages have made sustained progress in writing and mathematics, with some pupils exceeding expectations.

In February 2018, the school was inspected by Ofsted. The quality of leadership and management of the school was judged to be 'good' and the school was judged as 'good' overall. Ofsted commented that:

- The headteacher and her team have successfully improved the school since the previous inspection in 2016. The quality of education is now good.
- The governing body is highly effective. Governors ably support school leaders and challenge them where necessary.

We are proud of the changes our school community has made, and the Governing Body is appreciative of the support it has received from the Headteacher, staff, pupils and parents.

How do our governance arrangements work?

Our Instrument of Government specifies the make-up of our Governing Body, as follows:

- One local authority Governor;
- Three Foundation Governors (appointed by the Parochial Church Council);
- Three Foundation Governors (appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education);
- One Foundation Governor (ex officio);
- The Headteacher;
- Two Parent Governors;
- One staff Governor.

New members have joined our Governing Body during the course of this year and we have been able to strengthen our skills and capacity in key areas. We have carried out a skills audit and this has given us a clear focus on the areas in which we need to further build our capacity or draw on external support.

The full Governing Body meets once each half-term. We also have a Finance Committee which meets annually to review the draft budget. We have committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters. Governors have excellent attendance at meetings. You can read details of our Governors and their attendance on our school website.

Our priorities

There are some issues that we consider in almost all our meetings. These include:

- the data that shows the progress and attainment of our pupils;
- how the school is safeguarding its pupils;
- how the school is using its Pupil Premium Grant and the difference it is making; and
- how the school's budget is being managed.

During the course of the 2017-18 school year, our Governing Body has focused on a range of matters in addition to this, which have included:

- Supporting the implementation of the further actions identified by Ofsted including continuing to:
 - a) improve the quality of teaching in mathematics;
 - b) accelerate pupils' progress in all subjects; and using assessment information to plan more opportunities for most-able pupils to excel so that a greater percentage reach the higher standards.
 - c) provide accurate feedback which focuses precisely on what staff need to do to further improve the quality of teaching and learning
 - d) share leadership roles and responsibilities more widely so that middle leaders are more effective in driving the school's priorities.
- Supporting parents to improve levels of pupil attendance;
- Embedding the schools approach to positive behaviour management;
- Overseeing the school's approach to safeguarding its pupils, which includes paying attention to issues of extremism and radicalisation;
- The school's progress in the implementation of its School Improvement Plan for 2017-18 and its improvement targets for the coming school year; and
- To uphold the school's ethos and vision of ensuring that children receive an unforgettable high-quality education in a welcoming family atmosphere where children's well-being is at its core.

Future plans

Our focus on the progress, achievement and safety of pupils at Fingringhoe will of course continue over the coming year. As well as this, we will be looking at a range of issues including ongoing collaboration with partners and stakeholders and the need for prudent financial management in the context of tight budgets across the education and wider public sector.

How you can contact the Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors Victoria Martin through the school office. You can also find more information on the school website at www.fingringhoe.essex.sch.uk

Governor attendance

You can find details of Governor attendance at our meetings on our website.