

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

Published July 2019

1. 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.
2. In February 2018, the school was inspected by Ofsted and was found to be a good school. Ofsted inspectors concluded 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.”
3. The Governing Body and the senior leadership team have high aspirations for the school, and as the school has continued its improvement journey in 2018-19, the Governing Body’s core focus has been on the provision of support and challenge in order to help drive continued improvement.

How do our governance arrangements work?

4. In accordance with the Government’s requirement for all Governing Bodies, the three core strategic functions of our Governing Body are:
 - a) Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
 - b) Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
 - c) Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.
5. Our Instrument of Government specifies the make-up of our Governing Body, as follows:
 - One local authority Governor;
 - Three Foundation Governors (appointed by the Parish 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.
6. 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

7. 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.
8. During the course of the 2018-19 school year, our Governing Body has focused on a range of matters in addition to this, which have included:
 - a) Supporting the continued implementation of the further actions identified by Ofsted including:
 - improving the quality of teaching in mathematics;

- accelerating 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.
 - providing accurate feedback which focuses precisely on what staff need to do to further improve the quality of teaching and learning
 - sharing leadership roles and responsibilities more widely so that middle leaders are more effective in driving the school's priorities.
- b) Supporting the senior team in a review of the curriculum to ensure that it is broad and balanced, and to develop, in particular, the school's use of outdoor learning;
- c) Overseeing the school's approach to safeguarding its pupils, which includes paying attention to issues of extremism and radicalisation and delivering a programme of PSHE to ensure that children are equipped to deal with the challenges of the modern world and to cope with the transition to secondary school;
- d) Maintaining our school premises to ensure that they meet health and safety standards; support the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum; and are safeguarded for future generations of pupils.
- e) The school's progress in the implementation of its School Improvement Plan for 2018-19 and its improvement targets for the coming school year.
9. Governors carry out regular monitoring visits to focus on specific parts of the School Improvement Plan, and areas of focus in 2018-19 have included safeguarding arrangements; attendance and absence; core subjects of reading, writing and maths; and the learning environment.

Future plans

10. 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

11. 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

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