

# Annual Governance Statement



Governing Body of Fingringhoe Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

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*To be reviewed annually*

At Fingringhoe C of E (VA) 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.

The governing body, school leadership and staff work together to ensure the stability and long-term success of the school. Our driving aim is to provide our pupils with a great education that prepares them for life beyond the school, whilst doing so in an environment that is friendly, caring and happy. A number of challenges face the school - including funding and Covid recovery - but the governing body is responding to these challenges with the key aims of maintaining stability and ensuring continued improvement in attainment.

## How do Our Governance Arrangements Work?

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all school governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of our governing body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Our 'Instrument of Government' specifies the make-up of our governing body, as follows:

- One local authority (Essex County Council) appointed 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.

## Meetings

The full governing body (FGB) meets once each half-term. We also have a finance committee which meets several times a year to review the draft budget and to keep ahead of other finance matters, including maintaining projections of finances in forthcoming years.

We also 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;
- How the school's budget is being managed.

During the course of the 2021-22 school year and into 2022-23, our governing body has focused on a range of matters in addition to this, which have included:

- Working with staff to ensure a smooth transition to new leadership and subsequent strong interim leadership during maternity leave.
- Assessing and supporting the response to a local authority review of teaching.
- 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.
- Supporting the renewal and implementation of the school improvement plan following new leadership in 2022.

## Monitoring

Governors carry out regular monitoring visits to focus on specific parts of the 'School Improvement Plan', and areas of focus in the last year have included core subjects of reading, writing and maths, computing, safeguarding and wellbeing as well as the new curriculum.

## 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 careful financial management in the context of tight budgets across the sector and continuity of leadership of the school.

## Contact the Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Kat Patel, through the school office. You can also find more information on the school website at [www.fingringhoe.essex.sch.uk](http://www.fingringhoe.essex.sch.uk)

## Governor attendance

Details of governor attendance of our meetings can be found on the school's website.