



## Governors' Annual Report to Parents 2020-21

**"To be the best we can be"**

Our Governing Body has been pleased to welcome two new governors this year, Rhonda Welsh (co-opted Governor) and Lauren Dawkins (staff Governor). The Governing Body is made up of a group of people who have a variety of skills and experience. We work effectively as a team to support our school and community, to communicate the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school and develop a culture of ambition for pupils, parents/carers, staff and themselves. As a school, we are keen to welcome new Governors who feel they have the skills and enthusiasm to help develop our youngsters.

Although the Governing Body have still not be able to meet in person, we have continued to meet remotely to support and challenge the Head Teacher and staff, ensuring the health, well-being and safety of everyone.

This year we have continued to deal with challenges that the pandemic has thrown at us but it has not stopped the school moving forward. Governors have attended many training sessions both in house and provided by the Local Authority to ensure that the remote learning offer provided during closure was robust and supported the learning of all pupils. We examined what provision was in place for those who found accessing home learning difficult time.

*"As Literacy Subject Leader and SLT as well as a Governor on the Curriculum Committee, I was highly involved in producing and approving the Recovery Curriculum in September to ensure that children were able to settle back into consistent, effective learning environment after the period of upheaval. Though it has been deemed that disadvantaged children have been most badly affected by the Pandemic, our children have been able to access a broad and balanced curriculum both in person and remotely when appropriate."*

*Caroline Langham, Staff Governor*

The Governing Body has three core functions:

- **Setting the strategic direction of the school.**

Last year the main focus was on dealing with raft challenges brought on by the Coronavirus Virus. This year school has continued to deal with all the issues relating to the pandemic but have been determined to move forward despite its demands.

The School Development plan outlines aspects that we wish to work on and includes a section for Governor Development - **Priority 3 – Curriculum Management**

**Leaders to have a clear overview of the quality of education for their curriculum responsibility and be confident to articulate strengths and areas for development**

*"Thorough discussion of KCSIE with Liza-Jane Rawlings, ensuring governors knew key points and how it is implemented throughout school."*

*Rachel Nash, Parent Governor*

Governors regularly check that all statutory policies are in place and on the school website so that they are accessible for parents/carers, external agencies and other stakeholders.

*"Approving updated policies plays an important role for Governors to ensure that procedures are in place and followed should the school need to react to an incident. School has continuously updated risk assessments in order to comply with Government Guidelines and ensure that children and staff are as safe as possible during the pandemic." CL*

A number of policies relating to health and safety, staffing, finance and the curriculum have been reviewed this year. A clear action plan for Governors to fulfil this role is in place and is reviewed on an annual basis.

*"Attendance, behaviour, exclusion and performance data is regularly shared with the governors. Having attended the recent H&S committee, I was given the opportunity to explore these figures in detail. It was positive to see that occurrences of exclusion had reduced over a period of time, for me this demonstrated the policies and provisions that are in place to support children and their families are working."*

*Lauren Dawkins, Governor*

Governors recognise the fabulous attainment and achievement of the pupils of William Reynolds in terms of their progress and attainment data in comparison with national averages and appreciate the hard work and commitment of staff and parents in supporting their children's learning. Our pupils also overcome a range of obstacles in order to achieve beyond the classroom.

*"Believe that school is still outstanding, because first quality teaching is embedded." Michelle Parker - Local Authority School Advisor 29/06/21*

- **Holding the school to account.**

At William Reynolds Primary School and Nursery there is a clear vision statement against which all targets and actions are assessed.

Pupil safety, welfare and learning are at the forefront of all our decision-making. You can find our school vision statement in the School Prospectus and on the school website. It is also on display in every classroom.

Governors support and challenge the decisions made about your child's education. We monitor school improvement through regular visits into school to meet with school leaders, attend effective training, review whole school policies, check school appraisal systems, observe pupils' attitude to learning, and seek the views of parents, staff and children through interviews and questionnaires. We feel that there is a "team" ethos that is the key to the successful learning for all our children.

Governors regularly review safeguarding procedures and policies are in place and being adhered to.

This year it has been very important to ensure that procedures and systems are in place to protect pupils, staff and visitors (including parents and carers) against the transmission of Covid 19. Governors have supported school to ensure that the school was safe for those returning following close down.

*"Covid restrictions still in place and year group bubbles being adhered to. Children understand the importance of the rules and are following directions clearly. Attendance is still high, exceeding expectations." RN*

Governors have checked that risk assessments are in place and have completed an annual Health and Safety audit.

*"Health and Safety walk around school with school business manager, picking up on any issues arising and then the school business manager implementing necessary changes within a very short time frame to ensure the safety of all staff, pupils and governors. New school website working very well - very effective at giving information to parents, carers and governors." RN*

Governors check that all adults, including volunteers, coaches and Governors have an up-to-date enhanced DBS check.

- **Ensuring the financial wellbeing of the school.**

Governors have ensured that the budget reflects the priorities of the School Development Plan for the year ahead.

The Head teacher regularly updates the governors on the financial situation of the school via the FGB meetings and the Governor strand meetings.

*"As a Governor I feel the Head is using the information she has to effectively plan and budget resources for the coming academic years. We are aware of pupil numbers and the effect these have on our overall budgets, including those children with PPG and other various income sources. As governors we are aware of any large planned expenditure, such as the proposed extension in KS1." LD*

Governors have also checked the impact of specific funding on children's achievements.

#### *Catch-up Funding*

Governors have ensured that school has a clear catch-up plan and that the funding is being spent on supporting identified areas of concern.

#### *Pupil Premium Grant*

Governors use the Pupil Premium Grant to contribute to the development of an exciting and rich curriculum that engages and motivates the children, both inside the classroom and outdoors, during and after the school day and through visits and inviting external visitors /artists in residence to the school. The grant is used to top up short falls from parent voluntary contributions to ensure that any planned visits and events still go ahead. Although outside visits have had to be curtailed this year, it is hoped that we will be able to reinstate them early in the new academic year as they provide an exciting opportunity to develop our pupils' learning.

*"As a Governor, along with the Headteacher, I reviewed and allocated the PPG funds to best meet the needs of the children within school, and ensure that these funds were being directed appropriately within the school budget." CL*

#### *Sports Grant*

This year, some aspects of the plan could not be implemented such as swimming, but the plan has been widened for next year to take this into account. Also, extra-curricular sports activities could not take place due to COVID restrictions.

The Governing Body has worked with the Head Teacher to check that the school premises are safe, kept in good repair and offer an exciting, vibrant environment.

This year the Governing Body has agreed to the improvement of KS1 classrooms, KS1 hall and the KS2 roof.

To find out more about the role of the Governors and who we are please visit our school website. There you will find a short pen portrait for each member of the Governing Body. You will find us at [williamreynoldsprimary.org](http://williamreynoldsprimary.org)

Jane Tranter (Chair of Governors 2020-21)