

# Whingate Primary School Annual Governance Statement

Welcome to the Whingate Primary School Governing Body.  
I am pleased to share with you the Governor annual statement for the academic year 2022/23.

The Whingate Governors are led by Samantha Stewart, Chair of Governors, and are a committed and hardworking group who support the school in delivering their aims to ensure the best possible outcomes for all children.

This year, Governors were delighted to be able to appoint Claire Beswick and Karen Loney as Co-Head Teachers. We will continue to support and challenge them to provide the best educational outcomes and school experience for Whingate families. Over the last 12 months, the governors have been able to get back into school following the easing of pandemic restrictions and it has been wonderful to see the whole community working together for our children as we begin recovery from the effects of the pandemic.

We also said goodbye to Jim Guy who retired from governance after serving Whingate as a governor for thirty-three years! We wish Jim a happy retirement and thank him for his service. He has promised to return for the next barbeque evening, so we still have someone to preside over the sausages! His retirement means that we currently have a vacancy so if you are interested in becoming a Governor at Whingate please get in touch.

There are three areas of governance that we oversee, and here is information on how they have been monitored over the last year.

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

## **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.**

CLAUDE has continued to be implemented throughout school to improve personal development outcomes for our children. In addition to this, the work on diversity, “usualising” differences and the introduction of Zones of Regulation means that Whingate continues to develop best practice for inclusion and progress for all our children no matter what barriers to learning they may face.

The school development plan is monitored by the governors throughout the year, during committee meetings and school visits. The strategic direction of the school is mapped out in the plan which shows the intent, implementation and impact of the areas for improvement. It is a working document and is regularly reviewed and edited if necessary to ensure the school is constantly moving forwards.

## **Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.**

The Governors have a strong teaching and learning committee, which supports and challenges the school to ensure that the best possible, appropriate teaching is in place for all pupils. Members of the committee also visit pupil progress meetings where teaching staff discuss individuals and groups of pupils and determine interventions and support to help children reach their potential. The

teaching and learning committee review the spend of Pupil Premium, Covid Recovery grants, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Sports Premium and other grants to ensure that the funds are spent appropriately and that impact is seen as a result.

The pupil support committee meet termly to discuss aspects such as safeguarding, school food, social emotional mental health needs, extended services support from the Inner West Cluster and other services. This committee looks at attendance and is fully supportive of the school' approach to improving attendance for all children. The committee members consider equality and diversity and visit school regularly to monitor inclusivity in all aspects of school life. This committee also considers the voice of pupils, staff and parents as well as looking at wellbeing and personal development for all.

### **Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.**

The resource committee ensures that money is well spent. The committee has invested a significant amount of time in reviewing and improving the financial aspects of governance, the School Financial Value Standard framework has been an integral tool in enabling the Governors to further understand and challenge the school with regard to finance. This committee also oversees health and safety, buildings, staffing and data protection.

### **Governor Monitoring**

The Governors visit school regularly to meet with staff (including safeguarding staff and subject leaders) and observe aspects of school life in order to effectively support and challenge the school to provide the best outcomes for Whingate children.

Governors have taken part in a wide range of training to enable them to fulfil their duties more effectively. Such training includes, equality monitoring, understanding pupil premium, finance training, diversity training, HR and more. The Governors take opportunities to develop the team by recruiting co-opted Governors based on their skill set and contribution to the school community. The Governors work with the leaders to develop the school self-evaluation form and ensure it is realistic, ambitious and evidenced carefully. They have a range of skills and backgrounds that enable them to monitor and evidence the content of the evaluation and are confident that it is a true reflection of the school.

The schools aims are a golden thread for governance and are at the heart of the Governors focus.

- Provide caring relationships based on mutual respect
- Provide an environment where everyone is safe, secure and has fun
- Ensure there are clear expectations for behaviour and learning
- Encourage self-control, responsibility and good working attitudes
- Match learning to the needs and abilities of each child
- Provide a stimulating, creative, broad and balanced curriculum
- Maintain high expectations and achieve the best possible outcomes for all.

The governing body is made up of:

- one staff representative,
- one local authority representative,
- three parent representatives
- five co-opted members (one vacancy)
- the Co-Head teachers also holding one governor role between them.

The Governors have a structure of three committees and their membership is detailed below. The committees meeting once per term.

**Pupil Support Committee –**

**Chair - Ellis Chatter**

Claire Beswick

Karen Loney

Samantha Stewart

Debbie Binnersley

Ellis Chatter

Michelle Gittins

Carol Newton

Pete Zanzottera

**Resource Committee – Chair -**

**Pete Zanzottera**

Claire Beswick

Karen Loney

Debbie Binnersley

Michelle Gittins

Pete Zanzottera

Stacey Booth

**Teaching and Learning**

**Committee – Chair – Ian**

**Stokes**

Claire Beswick

Karen Loney

Debbie Binnersley

Ellis Chatter

Michelle Gittins

Emma Rushton

Samantha Stewart

Ian Stokes

Pete Zanzottera

The Governors are very proud of the school, staff, pupils and community, we are looking forward to the next twelve months of governance at Whingate as we support our school through the next phase of the journey.