

Whingate Primary School Annual Governors Statement 2024

Welcome to Whingate Governing Body!

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

Throughout the last year, the governors have developed in their role, undertaking training and development opportunities to ensure they are equipped in a wide range of skills, enabling them to complete their duties. Governors receive safeguarding training and regular updates, many have undertaken safer recruitment training to ensure they are able to monitor the schools practice from a place of knowledge and also take part in selection processes.

There are three areas of governance that the governors cover, 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.

The governors monitor the school development plan through a robust committee structure, with staff members visiting the meetings to discuss their development of curriculum areas, strategy in regard to attendance and behaviour, progress for all children particularly those with special education needs and disabilities, and provision for vulnerable learners. The governors visit the school regularly to ensure that they see such strategies and their impact in action.

Following the schools Ofsted inspection in October 2023, the governors have continued to support and challenge the school in relation to the identified areas for development in attendance and the children's ability to retain their learning overtime. Examples of the leaders' strategies have been evidenced, not only through governor visits, but also with external validation from the local authority school improvement team and other external moderation.

Safeguarding is a priority for the governors, and is discussed in all committee and full governing body meetings, as well as during visits to the school.

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, who support and challenge the school to ensure that the best possible, appropriate teaching is in place for all pupils. The committee also visit pupil progress meetings where teaching staff discuss individual 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, 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's relentless 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 in regard to finance. This committee also oversees health and safety, buildings, staffing and data protection.

Governor Monitoring

The governors visit school regularly and discuss their visits in the appropriate committee meetings, they also keep written evidence of their monitoring activity. They meet with school leaders, subject leaders, staff, parents at parents evenings and other events, and speak with children to gather their views. The governors ensure that the school is both supported and challenged by engaging with the local authority school improvement service who provide written record of their guidance.

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 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 governing body is made up of:

- one staff representative,
- one local authority representative,
- three parent representatives
- five co-opted members,
- 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 – Debbie Binnarsley

Claire Beswick

Ellis Lewis

Michelle Gittins

Karen Loney
Michelle Gittins
Cordel Willie

Resource Committee – Chair – Stacey Booth

Karen Loney
Debbie Binnersley
Michelle Gittins
Mark Rollinson

Teaching and Learning Committee – Chair – Ian Stokes

Claire Beswick
Debbie Binnersley
Ellis Lewis
Michelle Gittins
Mark Rollinson
Emma Rushton
Samantha Stewart
Cordel Willie
Andrew Rhodes

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.