



Whingate Primary School Annual Governors Statement 2022

Welcome to Whingate Governing Body!

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.

Throughout the last two years, the governors have continued in their role, meeting remotely and continuing their support despite the restrictions that the pandemic had placed on them. Governors have also volunteered to assist the school during lockdown. Because of the considerable disruption, there was no annual statement published in 2021.

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 have supported the school by developing a clear vision and ethos, the recently developed CLAUDE programme has been hugely successful in improving the personal development of our children. The school leaders have thought carefully about the needs of Whingate children and developed curriculum strands which are the basis for a new focus each half term. The Dream Big focus was a great opportunity for the children to develop their aspirations in a fun and varied way.

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, 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, 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 schools 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



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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 throughout the pandemic have carried on through virtual visits with subject leaders, safeguarding leaders and more. The governor team have adapted their approach in order to continue providing support and challenge as they normally would do.

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 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,
- the Co-Head teachers also holding one governor role between them.



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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
Samantha Stewart
Debbie Binnersley
Ellis Chatter
Michelle Gittins
Miss Karen Loney
Miss Carol Newton
Pete Zanzottera

Resource Committee – Chair - Pete Zanzottera

Claire Beswick
Debbie Binnersley
Michelle Gittins
Mr Jim Guy
Miss Karen Loney
Pete Zanzottera
Stacey Booth

Teaching and Learning Committee – Chair – Ian Stokes

Claire Beswick
Debbie Binnersley
Ellis Chatter
Michelle Gittins
Miss Karen Loney
Mrs Emma Rushton
Samantha Stewart
Mr Ian Stokes
Pete Zanzottera
Stuart Myers



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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.