

Yenton Primary School

Governors' Annual Impact Statement

Yenton Governors' Vision Statement

As Governors we will support, as well as challenge, the School to ensure that we achieve the best in all we do, to enable **all** of our children to realise their full potential throughout their school life and secure their lifelong success.

All decisions made by the Governing Board are based on the following criteria ***"Is it in the best interest of the Yenton child?"***

Why have we produced an annual statement?

In January 2014 the Department for Education published departmental advice in relation to the School Procedures regulations 2013. A number of additional recommendations, not mentioned in the Procedures regulations, were made in the advice document, **including reference to the publication of an annual governance statement.**

It is also good practice for the board to publish an annual governance statement to explain how it has fulfilled its responsibilities – particularly in relation to its core functions, including:

- *the governance arrangements that are in place, including the remit of any committees;*
- *the attendance record of individual governors at board and committee meetings; and*
- *an assessment of the effectiveness and impact of the board and any committees with details of any particular challenges that have arisen.*

Whilst accepting that the publication of a governance statement is not mandatory, it is good practice and an effective way for governors to demonstrate their accountability to parents on an annual basis.

Annual Governance Statement September 2016 – July 2017

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing boards, the 3 core strategic functions of the Governing Board (GB) are:

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

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body of the school was re-constituted in May 2015 and is made up of 13 members: the headteacher (ex-officio), 1 elected staff governor, 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 8 Co-opted governors. Co-opted governors are appointed by the GB and are people who, in the opinion of the governing board, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. On our GB two of the Co-opted governors are members of staff.

The full Governing Board (FGB) meets at least once a term, and we also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. These being:

- Staffing and Finance Committee

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum and Assessment Committee • Premises and Health & Safety Committee <p>In June 2016, Birmingham City Council undertook a Governance oversight assessment of the GB. The assessment identified good governing practice at Yenton and recommended some areas for improvement. This resulted in an action plan being produced which was tabled at FGB meetings. All recommendations were implemented during 2016/2017.</p> <p>In June 2017, we undertook a review of our committee structure and composition to ensure that we effectively manage time and resources. Following this review the number of committees was reduced from three to two. From September 2017 we will have a Finance and Resources Committee, which focuses on finance, staffing, premises and Health & Safety, and a Curriculum and Assessment Committee, which will focus on standards and attainment of pupils. In addition we will have committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.</p> <p>Our administrative needs are well served by a professional Clerk to the GB.</p> <p>Impact – The GB is constituted under the most recent government guidelines. The use of staff and governor time is most effectively managed, whilst allowing us to remain strongly focused on the key strategic functions of the GB. All meetings are accurately recorded by an independent clerk.</p>
<p>Attendance Record</p>	<p>Our governors have good attendance at both FGB and committee meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not “quorate” (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). See our website for details of individual governors’ attendance at full governing board and committee meetings.</p> <p>Impact –Our governors are highly committed to their role and the running of the school. Meetings are effective, meaning that decisions can be made promptly and with full consideration from all parties and all actions followed up.</p>
<p>What work have we done in our Committees and Governing Board</p>	<p>The GB has had a particularly busy year:</p> <p>The appointment of Robin Hood MAT from September 2016 has provided the school with the support and stability it required following the resignation of the school’s permanent headteacher. The new Leadership Team, with the support of the GB, has been effective in implementing a range of initiatives into school which are having a significant impact on the school’s improvement.</p> <p>A new Chair and Vice Chair to the GB were appointed in September 2016.</p> <p>Four new Governors joined the Governing Board in Autumn 2016 and have undertaken induction training and are now fully embedded into the work /role of governors.</p> <p>The School received an external evaluation by an educational consultant and HMI in September 2016. Following this evaluation a detailed and informative School Self Evaluation and School Improvement Plan was produced in November 2016, which recognised the school’s strengths and weaknesses and priority areas for improvement. This ensured that Governors were up to date with current</p>

information to ensure that we take decisive action to monitor and record progress. A follow-up evaluation was undertaken in June 2017 which demonstrated that the school was already making good progress.

Birmingham City Council carried out a Financial Audit in Autumn 2016 and the GB worked alongside the Leadership Team to ensure that an action plan was put in place and recommendations implemented. The Action Plan is an on-going agenda item for the Staffing and Finance Committee.

We have worked with the Senior Leadership Team on the development of the School Improvement Plan. We have set out our vision for the school and what we want our children to achieve.

We have aimed to be visible and accessible to families, we have held parent presentations throughout the year with the school's Leadership Team to update parents on progress within the school. We have attended parents' evenings and we have continued to conduct family surveys to gain valuable feedback and information about how we can continue to improve. At the request of parents, we have set up a Governors' email address which is managed by the Chair of Governors.

Impact – We have ensured that our school complies with all Local Authority guidance on governance, financial management and safeguarding.

We are able to assess our achievement and progress using the school development plan, Governor reports and headteacher reports.

We are setting targets for staff to ensure that standards are met or exceeded.

Families are kept informed about the work of the Governing Board, progress within the school and their feedback is valued.

The Curriculum and Assessment Committee has spent time discussing key data giving the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its targets for all pupils. We are also concerned about our “vulnerable groups” of children and focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their outcomes. Monitoring of outcomes includes assessment of teaching and learning and the optimum use of resources. Pupil Progress is now monitored every half-term to monitor impact of interventions.

Impact – Pupils are monitored as individuals and as groups to ensure that every child is reaching their full potential and has access to the resources that they need. Interventions are focused and effective. Governors have a clear picture of where the school's strengths and weaknesses and school data is improving.

The Staffing & Finance Committee looks at all finances and makes decisions about how the school should use the budget as well as ways of generating income and reducing costs. School budget funding has not increased, and costs are rising, effectively reducing the money available to spend on staff and resources. In the Spring term, the committee approved the 2016/17 budget plan for the school and the FGB ratified it in March 2017. The School Business Manager attends all Committee meetings and reports on financial progress against the budget. Governors' scrutinise the school budget and areas of spend.

Impact –We have been able to set a balanced budget in challenging times– this spending plan was submitted to the Local Authority.

Premises and Health & Safety Committee considers the maintenance and development of the school premises with the help of the Site Manager. This committee also has responsibility for Health and Safety at school.

Impact - We have overseen the various stages of the school expansion programme to ensure that the school has adequate classroom and learning facilities for expanding pupil numbers. We have been able to secure essential roof work to maintain the school buildings. We ensure that Health & Safety Procedures we have in place are operational e.g. school undertook a school lockdown procedure to ensure that the correct processes were in place.

Link Governors

To monitor school progress in line with the School Development Plan and Self Evaluation, Governors are allocated an area of responsibility and undertake scheduled visits to monitor and record progress. All Link Governors report back to the FGB meetings and are informed of progress. To ensure that Governors are effectively undertaking this role, a policy had been adopted which provides guidance on school monitoring visits and governor feedback forms. In addition, governors have been provided with effective governance criteria.

Governors take safeguarding very seriously and safeguarding is a standing item at all FGB meetings. We have a nominated governor for both these areas who gives a regular report to the FGB. There are also specific governors who meet with subject leaders and report on Numeracy and Literacy, Assessment & Data and Early Years, Pupil Premium as well as SEND.

Impact – The key areas of the curriculum and areas of high focus are monitored by governors.

All staff and governors received Safeguarding and PREVENT training this year and this continues to be monitored.

A governor Skill's Audit was undertaken in March 2017. A training programme has been implemented for governors; this has included induction training for new governors, finance and school data training. Further training on effective governance will be undertaken in Autumn 2017.

One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we have considered a number of key policies, including Behaviour Management and Safeguarding, PREVENT, Health & Safety, Anti Bullying, and Radicalisation (No Platform for) Policy.

Impact – These policies are in line with the most recent Local Authority guidance. Development of rigour in GB through training and peer to peer review – we have looked for the best opportunities in governor training to enhance our skills and knowledge.

Future plans for governors

The Governing Board is looking forward to continuing to grow our relationships with all stakeholders– pupils, staff and families, to ensure that all of our children are achieving the best possible outcomes, both academically and personally.

At the first FGB meeting of the new academic year we discussed and set our 4 new areas for impact. The focus for this will be based on what has happened over the previous school year, and will always be related to the core functions of a

	<p>governing board and ensuring the best outcomes for pupils.</p> <p>For the academic year 2017/18 the areas for focus are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitoring of Pupil Premium spend and pupil outcomes – to ensure we are closing the gap between disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils. 2. Monitoring of targeted interventions for SEND pupils across the school to check progress and impact. 3. Monitoring the implementation and impact of new curriculum initiatives eg Cornerstones, Talk for Writing and cursive writing. 4. Monitor the implementation of British Values and diversity through the school and curriculum –including teaching, resources and pupils’ work <p>As a GB we will continue to undertake a continuous process of review, covering pupil progress, attendance, staff development, school finances and of our own performance.</p>
<p>How you can contact the governing board</p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Vicki Popplewell, through the school office in writing or via gov@yenton.bham.sch.uk. You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings and more information about what we do, on the Governors’ page of the school website.</p>

19th September 2017