

**Yenton Primary School**  
**Governors' Annual Impact Statement**  
**2017/2018**

**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 Full Governing Board (FGB) 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 annually basis.

**Annual Governance Statement**  
**September 2017 – July 2018**

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 GB 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 FGB 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.
- The FGB meets four times per year. We also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. These being:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finance and Resources Committee (which focuses on finance, staffing, premises and Health &amp; Safety)</li> <li>- Curriculum and Assessment Committee (which focuses on standards, teaching and learning and pupil attainment)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have Panels that meet, if required, to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.</li> <li>• We have set up a Governor Academisation Working Group whose role is to oversee the proposed Academy Conversion and make recommendations back to the FGB.</li> </ul> <p>Our administrative needs are well served by a professional Clerk to the GB.</p> <p><b>Impact</b> – The GB is constituted under the most recent government guidelines. Following the restructuring of the Committee structure in 2016/2017 the use of staff and governor time is most effectively managed, whilst still allowing us to remain strongly focused on the key strategic functions of the GB.</p> <p>All meetings are accurately recorded by an independent clerk and Committees and Sub-Groups are issued with Terms of Reference.</p>
<p><b>Attendance Record</b></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 the Governing Board webpage for details of individual governors’ attendance at full governing board and committee meetings.</p> <p><b>Impact</b> –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><b>What work have we done in our Committees and Governing Board</b></p>	<p>The GB has had a particularly busy year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The School received an external evaluation in September 2017. The feedback from this evaluation was positive, <b><i>“the school leaders and governors are providing stability a clear and positive direction across the school and that the leaders and staff are focusing on the right priorities to secure further academic improvement”</i></b>. The feedback from the evaluation was used to inform the School’s Self Evaluation and School Improvement Plan which was approved by the FGB in Autumn 2017. In addition, the feedback from the external evaluation was used to inform the governor’s monitoring visits for pupil premium, SEND and Curriculum.</li> <li>• The GB developed and approved the School’s Strategic Plan. (<a href="http://www.yenton.bham.sch.uk/pdfs/governor-plan1720.pdf">http://www.yenton.bham.sch.uk/pdfs/governor-plan1720.pdf</a>). The Strategic Plan sets out our vision and ambitions for our school and how we will achieve this. The strategic plan will be reviewed on an annual basis in line with the School’s SIP, school data and feedback from any Ofsted inspections or external evaluations.</li> <li>• We have aimed to be visible and accessible to families. We have attended parents’ evenings and our parent liaison Governor has attended school assemblies and has been available on the school gate and in the playground to talk to parents. We have continued to conduct family surveys to gain valuable</li> </ul>

feedback and information about how we can continue to improve our School. We have held meetings with staff, parents/carers to consult on the Governing Board's proposals to convert to academy status and join Robin Hood MAT. We have held a parent/carer meeting to inform them of the school's proposals to work with Birmingham City Council to decommission the Foundation Building and provide a new purpose built nursery and wraparound childcare facility on the school premises.

- We have produced a termly Governors' Newsletter to update our school community on the work of the Governing Board and key decisions we have made and why we have made them.
- In March 2018, the school underwent its Ofsted Inspection and were once again judged to be a "good" school. The Inspector reported that; [Governors] *use their extensive range of skills and wealth of experience to hold leaders to account... and now offer a robust challenge.*
- Following consultation with staff and the school community, the Governing Board agreed to enter into due diligence to convert to academy status and join Robin Hood Multi Academy Trust. An Academy Order was approved by DfE in July 2018 and school entered into the due diligence process in September 2018.

#### **Impact –**

- We have ensured that our school complies with all Local Authority guidance on governance, financial management and safeguarding.
- We have set targets for the Leadership Team to ensure that standards are met or exceeded. The school community is kept informed about the work of the Governing Board, progress within the school and their feedback is valued.
- We are working towards our vision and ambitions; we aim to be an "outstanding" school over the next five years. As a GB we are providing the strategic leadership and have demonstrated our ability to ensure robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance.

The work of our Committees:

**The Curriculum and Assessment Committee:** Pupil Progress is monitored every half-term to monitor the impact of interventions. The Committee has spent time analysing and discussing key data and checking on pupil progress (including EAL, Pupil Premium and SEND children), so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its targets for all pupils. Any area where expected progress is not made has been queried and actions are followed up. This information has then been used for follow-up discussion and visits to school by Link Governors. The Committee reports outcomes to FGB meetings.

**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, the impact of teaching and learning initiatives and interventions.

**The Finance & Resources Committee:** focuses on school finances, staffing and health and safety. Key decisions are made about how the school should use the

budget as well as ways of generating income and reducing costs. The issues facing school budgets has been well publicised and this is having the knock-on effect of reducing the money available to spend on staff and resources. The Governing Board has had to make some difficult decisions over the past two years to ensure that we have a sustainable school budget. During 2017/2018 we reviewed the services that we purchased and have made savings by entering into new service agreements, we have reviewed our staffing structures to determine how we can reduce the costs of employing supply staff and we have agreed with Birmingham City Council to decommission the Foundation Building out of the school site to reduce the costs associated with maintaining the building. As a result we have been able to set a balanced budget which was ratified by the Full Governing Board 28 March 2018.

We ensure that Health & Safety Procedures we have in place are operational e.g. the school undertook a full lockdown procedure in June 2018 to ensure that the correct processes were in place.

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

### **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 Committees and the FGB is informed of progress.

In 2017/18 governors held roles linked to specific subjects or school functions these included:

- Safeguarding
- Governors' Skills and Training
- Parental Engagement
- Pupil Premium
- SEND
- Curriculum
- British Values and Diversity

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.

Governors take Safeguarding very seriously and safeguarding is a standing item at all FGB meetings. We have a nominated governor for Safeguarding who attends regular training. 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 2018. A training programme has been implemented for governors; this has included induction training for new governors and Effective Governance Training. Further training will be undertaken in 2018/19.

One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we have considered a number of key policies, Safeguarding, GDPR, Code of Conduct

	<p><b>Impact</b> – 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.</p>
<p><b>Future plans for governors</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Over the next academic year (2018/19) we will continue to monitor 4 areas of impact. The focus will be based on what has happened over the previous school year, and will always be related to the core functions of a governing board and ensuring the best outcomes for pupils.</p> <p>For the academic year 2018/19 the areas for focus are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monitoring of Pupil Premium spend and pupil outcomes – to ensure we are closing the gap between disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils.</li> <li>2. Monitoring of targeted interventions for SEND pupils across the school to check progress and impact.</li> <li>3. Monitoring the implementation and impact of new curriculum initiatives eg Cornerstones, Talk for Writing, cursive writing and initiatives to improve reading and maths.</li> <li>4. Monitor the implementation of British Values and diversity through the school and curriculum –including teaching, resources and pupils’ work</li> </ol> <p>As a GB we will continue to undertake a continuous process of review, covering pupil progress, attendance, staff development and of our own performance.</p> <p>During 2018/19 the GB will undertake a due diligence process before making any formal agreement to become an Academy and join Robin Hood MAT.</p>
<p><b>How you can contact the governing board</b></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 <a href="mailto:gov@yenton.bham.sch.uk">gov@yenton.bham.sch.uk</a>. 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>

**October 2018**