



Astbury St Mary's Primary School

Annual Governance Statement

July 2018

In accordance with the government's requirement for all governing bodies, the core strategic functions of Astbury St Mary's Primary School governing body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school, ensuring value for money.
4. Promote the highest possible standards for Safeguarding

The school aims to serve its community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers all its pupils.

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England at parish and diocesan level.

Governance arrangements

The governing body of Astbury St Mary's Primary School was re-constituted in 2014 and is made up of 2 staff governors (including the headteacher), 1 co-opted governor, 2 elected parent governors, 1 local authority governor and 7 foundation governors [3 DBE and 4 PCC]. The rector of St Mary's church is an ex-officio foundation governor.

The full governing body meets twice in the autumn term and once in the other two terms, and there are a number of committees who consider different aspects of the school and which meet termly. These are Resources and Teaching & Learning (which includes the Raising Attainment Group). Other committees include Admissions, Headteacher Performance Management and, reflecting the school's Christian foundation, RE and Ethos. Also, if required, three more committees, Dismissals, Exclusions, and Complaints meet to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

The governors maintain close links with St Mary's church and the local village community. The headteacher attends the monthly Astbury Parochial Church Council meetings.

Mrs Claire Hocknell is the chair of the May Day committee, and the Head and Mrs Kath Moore also attend their regular meetings.

Mr John Carter is the school's representative on the CDAT Governor Committee.

Mrs Donna Graham continued as an associate member during 2017/18, to be consulted on matters of policy etc.

Mrs Steph Morris acts as an advisor to the RE and Ethos committee. In June 2018 Mrs Diane Woolrich resigned as a foundation governor.

Attendance record of governors	<p>Governor attendance at meetings is good and a meeting has never been cancelled because it was not quorate.</p>
Work done by the governing body and its committees	<p>The chair and head have held fortnightly meetings. The minutes are shared with all the governing board.</p> <p>Governing body meetings have had a strong focus on rapid improvement of standards and monitoring has been assisted by strong links with our external advisors from the local authority and the diocese.</p> <p>Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Full Governing Body reviewed and approved the following - NGA Code of Practice and Register of Business Interests. • Reviewed the Terms of Reference for each committee and published on the website. • Governors met in September 2017 and created the school's strategic plan for 2017 to 2020. The plan has been used as the key focus in meetings. • Records of visits shared and discussed after the visit of Neil Le Feuvre (Maths), Sue Riley (English) and ECM (Pupil Premium). • Governors came into school for a monitoring visit in March 2018. The focus was to see the teaching of other curriculum subjects, i.e. not Maths or English. • Governors took part in the Vales Day in May 2018. • Governors supported the Head with staff recruitment and interviews. • Teachers Pay, Best Value Statement, Admissions, Safeguarding, Behaviour, Governor Induction and Governor's Visit, Data Protection, SEN, Complaints and Whistleblowing, Educational Visits, Charging and Remissions, Emergency Plan and Lone Working policies were reviewed and approved. • Appointed Cheshire East clerk, Alison Knowlson, in 2017/18. New Cheshire East clerk, Claire Leslie, appointed in May 2018. • Raising Attainment group merged with Teaching and Learning committee and met every half term. Made up of school, governing board, LA and Diocese representatives. • Governors have attended a range of role specific training courses. <p>Hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governors reviewed the school data and set challenging targets for 2017/18. Governors have continued to analyse and question the performance data in 2017/18. • The attendance target was reviewed and set for 2017/18. • Pupil premium and sports premium information was shared and the impact discussed.

- A staff survey was carried out in Summer 2017 and the results were discussed and improvements actioned.
- The impact of the Behaviour policy was reviewed.
- The governing board have provided challenge over behaviour and attendance.
- The deployment of TAs discussed.
- Progress data for vulnerable groups discussed.
- SEN governors have held meetings with the Head.
- Health and Safety governors have worked with the Head to ensure the health and safety audit actions were complete.
- Pupil premium governor met with the ECM representative, who completed an audit of pupil premium in the school.
- Termly meetings with the head and HTPM governors were arranged to discuss the progress towards HT performance management targets.
- Monitored the training of staff and evidence of the impact and actions from training.

Oversee the financial performance of the school, ensuring value for money;

- Reviewed the budget vs actuals.
- Received the unofficial funds audit certificate and the balances of the governors' bank account.
- Governors discussed and set the school budget 2018/19.
- Approved the SFVS return to the LA.
- Approved the school fund auditor.
- 2017/18 budget carry forward and predicted balanced budget in 2018/19.
- Carried out a benchmarking exercise to compare costs with similar schools.
- Pay policy amended to consider half increment points for partial completion of objectives.
- School improvement money used to benefit those areas most in need.

Promote the highest possible standards for Safeguarding.

- Monitored staff training. Safeguarding training updated and completed by staff.
- Safeguarding governor meetings held with Head. Items discussed were linked to the Cheshire East Director of Education's bulletin.
- New safer entrance and new office building completed.
- Cheshire East's model Safeguarding policy was adopted and approved. Lone Working and Behaviour policies were approved.
- Monitored attendance and reasons for poor/late attenders.
- Head teacher regularly updates staff regarding safeguarding.
- The Single Central Register is checked regularly by a

safeguarding governor and Head.

Part one minutes of governing body and committee meetings are public documents. You can either find them on the governors' page of our website or ask to view them at the school office.