**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF WEST HEATH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**JULY 2017**

In accordance with the Government’s requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of West Heath 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 and the pupils.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

**GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Governing Body was re-constituted in March 2016 following a Skills Audit. The composition of the FGB (Full Governing Body) is as follows:

14 Governors in total.

8 Co-opted Governors elected by the FGB. These people have the necessary skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

1 Staff Governor elected by the staff.

1 Local Authority Governor elected by Birmingham Local Authority.

3 Parent Governors elected by parents.

1 Headteacher.

The FGB meets five times per year. There are also two main Committees – CSTL (Curriculum, Standards, Teaching & Learning) and FFP (Finance, Facilities & Personnel). Committees meet twice each term. There are other Panels which meet during the year, as required, to cover aspects such as Pupil Discipline, recruitment etc. Safeguarding/Child Protection is another significant role undertaken by the FGB led by a skilled and knowledgeable Governor.

A list of the FGB is available on the Governors web page.

**ATTENDANCE RECORD OF GOVERNORS**

The FGB is generally pleased with the attendance rates it has achieved during the year. Please see the Governors web page for details.

**WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THIS YEAR**

Following the Ofsted Inspection in June 2015 the FGB has had a particularly busy year focussing on priorities identified in the Report. Governors have a specific programme of work to undertake each year which links closely to the School Development Plan. We follow our annual FGB Strategy Plan.

***The CSTL Committee*** has monitored the School Development Plan closely to ensure that school improvements have taken place. The focus has largely been on improving literacy skills and in particular – Reading across the school. Governors have monitored procedures put in place by the school to ensure higher standards in Reading. Visits have been made to classrooms and much discussion has taken place. Very good use of Pupil Premium money has supported the pupils’ learning and significant improvements have been made. Outcomes have improved. The school has extended moderation work with other schools regarding assessment procedures and judgements have been verified as accurate; Governors have supported this work and have been pleased to see external reports from moderators. The Parent View Questionnaire was scrutinised by Governors, we were delighted with the overall response from yourselves. Provision for SEN (Special Education Needs ) pupils has been considered and reports scrutinised. The new Assessment system has been introduced to Governors which we are very positive about. The standard of teaching and learning has been monitored closely again. Reports from staff, Governor visits to classrooms and book scrutinies have taken place to evidence improvements. The June 2015 Ofsted Report recommendations have been discussed in detail to ensure whole school improvement continues. The continued improvements in Maths has been scrutinised and Governors have agreed for a new scheme to be purchased to support further work in this aspect. School gained the national award of the P.E. Quality Mark at silver level which Governors were delighted with. Sports funding has been wisely used to support the many P.E. activities which the pupils have enjoyed, this will continue. Safeguarding/Child Protection procedures are taken very seriously by Governors and these aspects have been the focus for the SG Governor who has visited school regularly to meet with staff.

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***The FFP Committee*** has monitored the school spending closely in order to meet the needs of the pupils. The budget for the forthcoming year has been agreed. The school has met the repayment plan, to the LA, set for 2017. This means that the deficit amount has reduced according to plan. Planning for the new school build has taken a large amount of time and Governors have been very involved with the planning stages. We are all excited by this major project and look forward to building starting this Autumn. We have an experienced Health & Safety Governor who is working closely with the school to ensure all is well with this vital aspect of school life. The continuing deterioration of the current building is cause for concern regarding maintenance costs; we are all aware there is another winter to get through before the completion of the new building. The health and safety of all pupils and staff is vital so we are trying to extend the life of the heating system and the roof without major spending but at the same time ensuring the school is warm and dry! Monitoring of the work/life balance for staff will continue. Governors have agreed the current Staff Structure for 2017-18, and future years, as being appropriate to meet the needs of the pupils. This will be reviewed annually.

Governors have reviewed and agreed several school policies during the year; there is a Policy Review timetable in place so all statutory, and other, policies are reviewed as required. Governors attended the school conference in May 2017 and contributed to the development of the West Heath Vision Statement for pupils. The pursuit of ‘Outstanding’ from Ofsted was scrutinised and aspects for development were identified by staff and Governors; these aspects will form part of the action plan for next year.

**FUTURE PLANS FOR THE GOVERNORS**

The school building development will be a priority for the FGB.

The Governing body has experienced Governors and we look forward to welcoming a new Parent Governor during the Autumn Term 2017. Induction and training will be provided. Building the team will continue this year as this will benefit the school. Skills will be used to enhance the performance of the FGB.

A new Clerk to Governors has been recruited from Nova Administration Services and he will start his role in September 2017. We welcome the new Clerk and look forward to working with him.

Training and professional development will continue as required. Working towards ‘outstanding’ will be a main focus for the Governors this year.

Committees will continue their work as outlined in the FGB Strategy Document for 2017-18. This will include the pursuit of the ‘Outstanding’ criteria from Ofsted.

**CONTACT WITH THE FGB**

Governors welcome suggestions, ideas and feedback from parents/carers. Please contact the school office who will pass on any written suggestions to the Chair of Governors.

 \*Please note this does ***no***t include complaints about the school – these go to the Headteacher.

The Governors’ web page includes all relevant details about the FGB and you are warmly encouraged to view this page.

Frances Millett

Chair of Governors

July 2017.