

## **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE GOVERNING BOARD AT WEST HEATH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**JULY 2022**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing boards, the three core strategic functions of the West Heath Primary School Governing Board are:

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and all the pupils.

Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring monies are well spent.

### **Governance Arrangements**

Currently the Board has fourteen places. We are waiting for a Local Authority Governor to be recommended and we are seeking one more Co-opted Governor who has the skills and expertise to support and challenge the school. The full Governing Board meets termly. The two main Committees meet three or four times per year. The Safeguarding Group meets termly. We have designated Governor roles for Special Education Needs; Pupil Premium; PE and Sport; Safer Recruitment; Safeguarding and Child Protection; Health and Safety; School Council and ArtsMark. Governors visit school regularly and we all enjoy meeting staff, pupils, parents and carers.

### **Governor Attendance**

Attendance at meetings has been good. We have never had to cancel a meeting due to poor attendance which means all meetings have been quorate (the correct number of Governors have been present to ensure any legal decisions can be made). Please see the school website for details of attendance at all Governor meetings.

### **Work Undertaken this Year**

We are delighted to be back in school for visits and meetings. We are still mindful of the need for consideration and care when we are in school as circumstances can change regarding the pandemic. However, we have successfully managed to follow a specific programme of work relating to school improvements. We have focussed on the reintegration of pupils returning to school and we recognise their learning needs have changed as a result of school closures in 2020 and 2021. We have worked closely with school to eliminate the inherited budget deficit and I am delighted to report that this has been achieved.

The Curriculum, Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee has focussed on reviewing the progress and attainment of all groups of pupils in English and Maths with a particular focus on disadvantaged learners alongside those pupils capable of achieving greater depth in learning based on prior attainment. The Committee has also reviewed various Policies as well as scrutinising pupils' work in core subjects. School Subject Leaders have attended meetings and presented very interesting and informative information related to the School Development Plan. The Committee places great value on these presentations. The Committee has monitored the progress made by pupils who have received extra tutoring via the School Based Tutoring programme. An ArtsMark Governor has been appointed from this Committee to work with school as it proceeds towards achieving this prestigious Award. Two Governors met with the Early to Career Teachers in March 2022 to monitor their induction procedures and the significant commitment made by school to

mentor new staff. The Special Education Needs, Pupil Premium, School Council and Sport/PE Governors have also visited school and have reported back to the full Board to keep everyone informed. The Safeguarding Group has met termly and has also reported back.

The Finance, Facilities and Personnel Committee has focussed on continuing to achieve a balanced budget and ensuring financial probity at all times seeking best value for money as well as benchmarking against other schools. In consultation with BCC (Birmingham City Council) Audit Office, the Committee has made some slight amendments to the Terms of Reference which it works to. This Committee has also focussed on supporting staff well-being and reviewing the staff structure to ensure the varying needs of all pupils are all met. Health and Safety issues have been discussed and the statutory Risk Assessments monitored. Relevant Policies have been reviewed. This Committee has undertaken extremely focussed discussions regarding school budget implications. Clearing the inherited deficit has been a lengthy process but, as reported earlier, has now been achieved. The Committee will now work hard with school leaders to ensure that this situation remains as it is. The Committee successfully completed the Schools Financial Value Statement for BCC in March 2022.

The Full Governing Board has successfully worked as a corporate team and has supported the school in ensuring all outcomes for all pupils are the best they can be. We recognise the impact that the pandemic has had on staff and pupils and look forward to building on the current progress made in school. The Governing Board has considered the academisation programme as outlined by the Government. Currently we feel we need more time to make an informed decision about this and our prime aim will always be to ensure we take decisions which are in the best interests of the pupils. We continue to develop our skills as Governors and regular training opportunities are undertaken to enhance skills and expertise. We continue to develop aspects identified in the Governor Mark Award which we successfully achieved in July 2021. Other improvements we have made include: closer liaison between Committees which informs everyone of needs and the impact of spending; revised Terms of Reference for Pupil Premium, SEN and Sport/PE Governor roles. These have been implemented and followed during the current year and have improved the focus for designated Governors and have further supported the reporting procedures for all Governors.

### **Future Plans for Governors**

We intend to:

Continue to recruit skilled members to the Board in order to develop a fully functioning, all-inclusive Board of Governors.

Continue to develop good, professional working relationships with all staff in school.

Continue to monitor the School Development Plan to ensure that Governors support high quality teaching and learning leading to good (or better) pupil progress and attainment.

Maintain a balanced budget at all times whilst meeting the needs of the pupils.

Consider developing any school lettings in order to generate funds.

Work towards renewing the Governor Mark Award in 2024.

Undertake individual performance reviews with all Governors in order to improve, and celebrate, performance and procedures.

3.

**Contact with the Governing Board.**

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and carers. Please contact me, as Chair of Governors, via the school office. You can see the full list of Governors with attendance and declarations of any interests, and any other relevant information on the school website.

Finally – it only remains for me to wish every success to pupils leaving West Heath Primary School at the end of this term. Year 6 have been a credit to you as parents, or carers, as well as the school. We all wish them the very best of luck in everything they do in their future educational years.

My very best wishes to you all.

Frances Millett

Chair of Governors.

July 2022.