

Annual Governance Statement July 2020

It has been a very busy year and governors have been working hard to support the school staff with the priorities we have identified for our school.

We are very fortunate to have a Governing Body with a wide range of skills and experience, who support our school community.

A total of 11 Governors form the Governing Body of Horton CE VA Primary School. There are:

- 2 elected Parent Governors,
- 1 Local Authority Governor,
- 1 Ex Officio
- 6 Foundation Governors, and
- 1 elected staff governor.

The Executive Headteacher attends all full governing body and sub-committee meetings. The full Governing Body meets each term, and there are two sub committees who meet at least three times a year to consider different aspects of the school in detail. The Staffing, Pay and Curriculum Committee focuses on teaching, learning and the educational performance of pupils. They also consider matters of pay and performance. The Finance and Property Committee focuses on finance matters, premises and Health and Safety. When necessary we form committees that meet to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

The governing body are a team of people who wish to make a positive contribution to the children's learning and development. Our strong team approach is essential in carrying out our wide range of responsibilities for the benefit of our children, parents/carers and staff. The role of the governing body is to:

- Set the strategic direction of the school;
- Support and challenge the school to bring about improvement;
- Ensure accountability for the performance of the school.

Overview of the school's aims

Our school vision is "**Being the best we can be in everything we do, following the teachings of Jesus Christ**". The governors keep this vision at the forefront of all the work they do. Any aims and objectives we set ourselves or the school contribute in some way to achieving the vision for all our children and their families.

Governors' role in promoting school improvement

At Horton C of E VA Primary School, each member of staff and each governor is a leader of at least one aspect of the school's life, working as a strong team to improve learning and to raise standards. Pupil voice, through the School Council, and parent consultation, through the Parent Forum questionnaires, mean that the whole school community is part of consultation and the decision-making process. The Executive Headteacher works with the school community to identify priorities and plan improvements. The Governing Body monitors school improvement priorities through regular committee meetings we have clear agendas which focus on the impact of actions in the school development plan. We also visit the school regularly to take part in learning walks, as well as watching the children at work to see first-hand the impact of the school's work.

Our successes this year

In March 2020 we had our Ofsted inspection, where the school's overall effectiveness was graded as 'Good'. The school curriculum was found to be strong covering the national curriculum and enhanced by a wide range of clubs. We as governors are very proud of the school for this achievement.

From our most recent Ofsted inspection, March 2020.

What is it like to attend this school?: *"Horton is a school where the ethos of compassion, forgiveness and honesty shines through. Pupils appreciate all that the school has to offer, describing it as 'belonging to a giant family'. Staff put pupil's happiness at the heart of all they do as they strive to ensure that pupils meet their full potential".*

Jen Southall – Lead Ofsted Inspector

Our current priorities

Our current priorities identified in the school development plan are as follows:

Target 1: Teaching and Learning and the Curriculum – we aim for all children to make outstanding progress in core subjects whilst still enjoying enrichment and creativity within the curriculum.

Target 2: The school community and beyond – to maintain the profile of Horton and continue to make links with the wider community

Target 3: The school environment – to enhance the school environment.

Target 4: Christian Ethos –continue to use our values to enhance our ethos of mutual respect and treating all as a unique individual and continue to develop links between the church and the school.

Governors continue to work with teachers and the head teacher to monitor progress in achieving these targets.

The achievement of our children: Attainment and Progress

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus there were no SATS for children in Year 6 this year.

Our support for children with SEND

The governing body have a legal requirement to ensure the needs of children with special educational needs are met. To reflect the importance of this work we have identified a governor who is responsible for overseeing this work. Our SEND Governor is Michelle Parsons.

Our SEND governor meets regularly with the SENCO when discussions are held around current provisions and monitoring currently in place.

Horton primary school offer several provisions to support students with SEND. This year these provisions have included:

- TA led are usually based on over learning what has been learnt in class
- Specific skills (for example a comprehension group).

- Online programme is used for dyslexic students.
- Social skills groups
- Lego therapy groups
- SATs preparation.
- Extended transition into secondary school for students.

Ofsted found the leader of SEND to be knowledgeable with the expertise to provide guidance for staff. With strong relationships between home and school.

Attendance

There is a proven link between good attendance and making good progress. Therefore, governors take this very seriously and monitor attendance closely.

Louise Charlton is our nominated governor and meets regularly with the Headteacher to discuss attendance and the school's approach to tackling issues. As we are constantly striving for excellence we aim to have school attendance above or at least in line with national.

The governors urge you not to take your children out of school during term time for holidays and the governors continue to support the school in implementing the following initiatives to boost attendance.:

- The school's Education Welfare Officer will now support families who have children with persistent absences.
- Letters are sent to all parents with low attendance rates

We want your children to get the best possible experience and learning from our school. Please help us to do that by making sure your children come to school every day.

Where are our children going when they leave us?

This year we have 10 children leaving us. They are going to Katherine Lady Berkeley, Yate Academy, Chipping Sodbury School.

We wish them all the best in their new adventures.

Working with parents and the community

The governors value the work of parents and carers and are keen to seek their views. These are then incorporated into the development work of the school. This year we have engaged with parents in a variety of ways including our regular Newsletters and Reading and Maths workshops that help parents to support their children's learning at home.

The school seeks the views of children by hosting regular school council meetings and have their own health and safety team. As a result of their comments this year we have developed a number of initiatives.