

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Glasshouses
Community Primary School July 2017**

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

Governance arrangements

The governing Body consists of nine governors made up as follows:

- Two parent governors - One Local Authority governor - Two staff governors (including the Headteacher) - Four co-opted governors

Each governor is appointed for a period of four years.

The governing body elects a Chair and a Vice Chair annually from its members. The full governing body meets once per half term, and these meetings are led by the chair of governors.

2016-2017:

Chair of Governors – Steve Ellis

Vice Chair – Neil Wilson

Attendance record of governors

The clerk to the governing body maintains a record of governors' attendance at meetings and any absence is considered at the start of each meeting. We consider these meetings to be critical to the effective running of the school and each governor is held accountable for their attendance record.

There is a defined minimum number of governors without which a meeting cannot proceed. This is referred to as being 'quorate' and it is important because it ensures the decisions made in the meeting have authority and standing.

All the governing body meetings in the 2016-17 academic year have been quorate.

Governor attendance at meetings, both Full Governor and sub-committee, is consistently good with all absences explained and accepted by the Governing Body. There are six Full Governor meetings each year and average attendance running was 88% in the 2016-17 academic year (based on 64 potential attendances). This is an increase in attendance from the previous year and includes 2 extra meetings to facilitate the appointment of a new head teacher.

The work we have done on our committees and in the governing body meetings

Governors have been working closely with staff to analyse the data for academic year 2015-16 and determine any trends in performance for all pupils or specific groups. As a result, we have put an additional focus on how we assess and monitor performance throughout school so that we can understand the impact of interventions and also respond quickly to any trends.

Mill Development – as the development has progressed the governors have kept up to date with all activities and their impact for the school and our children. The Chair and Head have been very involved in negotiating safeguards to ensure minimal disruption to the start and finish of school, and to the safety of our children.

This year the governors have also been focused on the future of education with Nidderdale, particularly the Chair and Vice Chair who have attended numerous network meetings on this topic.

Wireless access has been installed throughout the school. This will allow for greater access around the school and gives more flexibility to learning spaces.

A lot of work has been put in by the governors and Head in pushing forward the kitchen extension. This became necessary due to the changes to the school

meal funding introduced in 2014, and it became apparent a change was needed in how we provided the meals. Work is hoped to be completed by October 2017.

The governors and staff work closely throughout the year to ensure we are providing the best possible service for our pupils and parents. Governors visit school at least termly and provide a written report on their observations which is then reviewed by the whole governing body. Much of the work of the governing body goes 'under the radar' but the minutes of governing body meetings are a matter of public record and they are available to read in school. Since November 2015, we have published the minutes of our governing body meetings on the school website in order to simplify access and increase transparency. We trust that parents and carers will find this helpful in understanding the role we play in running the school.

Also this year the governors have overseen the transition as we say goodbye to our longstanding and dedicated Head, Lynn Tee, and hello to our new Head, Nicola Thornber.

Strategic Planning for the future

Each year, the school publishes a rolling 3-year development plan, highlighting the main areas for development, with details as to how we will make progress. These documents are updated termly by the Headteacher and reviewed by governors at the full governing body meeting.

For 2016, our priorities are:

- Ensure rapid improvements in Reading so that by the end of Key Stage 2 2017 progress is in line with or better than national figures.
- Standards achieved by the end of Key Stage 2 are significantly higher than the national floor standards and at least in line with national figures.
- Rapidly improve progress in Key Stage 2, particularly in reading through effective high quality teaching

- Ensure staff understand school and national data and are able to use this to measure progress in their class towards national expectations.
- Complete the construction of new kitchen facilities
- Continue to develop the effectiveness of the Governing Body by creating a more pro-active Governing Body at a time of transition of members

In addition, we are closely monitoring developments in education brought about by the government's policy paper on Education Excellence Everywhere. We strongly support the ambition that every child should enjoy a full and inspiring education and we will work closely with our neighbouring schools and our local education authority to ensure our children continue to get the best start to their education.

How to contact your governing body

Members of the governing body are highly visible at school-related events such as the medal ceremonies, class assemblies and social events. In addition, they can be contacted via school using any of the following methods:

By email cofg@glasshouses.n-yorks.sch.uk By telephone via school 01423 711440 By post Glasshouses Community Primary School Harrogate North Yorkshire HG3 5QH

Further information about the governing body can also be found on the school website at www.glasshouses.n-yorks.sch.uk