



Annual Governance Statement of the Governing Body for Chilton Foliat Primary School Academic Year 2016/2017

'We strive to improve heart and mind'

Cor et Mentem Colere Nitimur

At Chilton Foliat Primary School we honour our educational heritage, supported by a strong Christian ethos. We strive to provide a diverse education that inspires children to develop a thirst for knowledge. This is delivered in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment promoting self-discipline, motivation and excellence in learning. We encourage strong partnerships and positive relationships amongst pupils, parents, carers and the wider community.

The three core functions of the Governing Body as laid out by the Government are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Head Teacher 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 of Chilton Foliat Primary School consists of:

- 7 Foundation Governors (Diocese appointed)
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 1 Parent Governors
- 2 Staff Governors (including the Head Teacher)
- 1 Co-opted Governor
- 5 Associate Governors

Associate Governors are those who, in the opinion of the Governing Body have particular special skills that will be helpful in contributing to the effective running of the Governing Body and success of the school.

The full Governing Body meets once a term and we also have committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. These consist of a standards committee, a resources committee (including areas of finance, staffing committee, premises, health and safety), a foundation Governors committee and a leadership and management committee that present to the full Governing Body.

Attendance record of Governors

Governors have an excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of Governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).

The work that we have done on our committees and in the Governing Body

Over the last year we have been working on areas included in our school improvement action plan which looks to continuously improve the standards of education at the school especially focusing on areas highlighted in our last GOOD Ofsted inspection.

The Full Governing Body has spent time considering the new curriculum and its impact on key data results of pupil attainment and progress. By holding the school to account, they aim to ensure the maintenance or improvement of academic outcomes to reach school targets that are set above national average. They also have a focus on the Pupil Premium Grant and Sports Funding, and how these are spent and the impact they have on pupil outcomes. Separate statements on these can be found on the school website. The governors continue to strengthen their role in monitoring and evaluation of subjects, especially those linked to the school improvement plan.

The Resources Committee approved the 2016/17 budget and monitor financial performance of the school against that, while ensuring processes are robust and that the school is efficiently using its funding to the benefit of all pupils. Aligned to school priorities, most of the school's budget goes towards the high standard of teaching in the school. The governing body has formally committed to wanting the best for our pupils and our uncompromising recruitment approach reflects that. Quality of teaching remains the key to the school's success, and investing in this is critical. Last year, in line with our school improvement action plan, we purchased significant resources to improve maths, literacy and RE for all year groups, and this year the Governing Body and staff are closely monitoring the impact of these. IT infrastructure and computing provision across the school is now a focus, as the ICT suite has been decommissioned to make way for an additional classroom needed due to the increase in pupil numbers. School lunches are of a high standard due to the great onsite catering team. Last year there was much work done to make the school safe, warm and dry, with a new boundary fence and school entry, new main school boiler and resurfaced roof. Regular health and safety checks and fire drills take place.

The Governing Body continues to support the ongoing provision of wrap around care for pupils including breakfast and after school clubs, and due to its success it has been able to contribute towards resources used not only by children using the club, but the whole school community, such as the tipi, and playground equipment.

The Foundation Governor Committee are responsible for upholding the Christian ethos of the school and continue to be involved in the Open the Book programme, capturing children's understanding of spirituality and looking at the availability of reflective areas for pupils. We have monitored the impact of this through the reflection books in classes, parent feedback and pupil conferences. Over this year the focus will be the monitoring of the impact of the new RE scheme of work, and other areas of Christian distinctiveness.

The Governing Body is also responsible for reviewing policies and procedures at the school and key areas looked at over the last year include Safeguarding (including an audit) Subject Leadership and Governor visits, Best Value Statement, and the introduction of a Spirituality policy.

The incredible efforts of the Head Teacher and the whole school community has helped to grow the school, leading to the introduction of a fourth full-time teacher. The Governing Body passionately believes that quality teachers is the key to providing the best outcomes for our pupils, and this together with strong leadership will continue to ensure the school thrives.

Future plans for the Governors

Over the next year the Governing Body will:

- continue to focus on improving educational standards, monitoring more rigorously through subject link Governors and the introduction of a Governors Day
- work towards providing a fourth fit-for purpose classroom
- improve the school's IT infrastructure and computing provision
- develop the skills of current governors while focusing recruitment of new governors with the key skills needed to support the school's improvement plan

How you can contact the Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Wolcough, via the school office.

You can see the full list of Governors and more information about what we do on the Governor's page of the school website and look out for the post FGB letters circulated to parents to keep up with what is happening over the course of the year.

This Statement will be reviewed annually.