

**Annual Governance Statement**  
**for the Governing Body of Forncett St. Peter CE (VA) Primary School**  
**January 2018**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Forncett St. Peter CE (VA) Primary School Governing Body 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.

**How our governing body is made up;**

Our governing body consists of 14 members, and these are people who - in the opinion of the governing body - have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. Membership includes the Head Teacher (non-voting). At the moment there is one vacancy for the Bishop's Representative, for which recruitment efforts, via the Diocese, are being made. Recent recruitment has brought Steve Trickey to our board of governors as a new Parent Governor, and we welcome him.

The full governing body meets once each half term, and there are four sub-committees, Finance and Resources, Curriculum and Standards, Health and Safety and Strategic and Distinctiveness. Strategic committee meets once a term, the other three meet twice a term.

When required, a small governor panel meets to consider exceptional issues.

The governors' Strategic Plan ensures that we cover all aspects of our duties over the course of each year.

**Attendance record of the governors**

Our governors demonstrate excellent attendance at meetings - over 82% - and, over the last year, we did not cancel any meeting because it was not quorate (the number of governors needed to ensure legal decisions can be made). In addition, governors have attended or represented the school at 28 sessions of training or external events promoting our knowledge and understanding of governance issues.

**What the four governors' committees have achieved:**

**Curriculum and Standards**

During the year, we have sought to improve feedback on achievement in PE - an area of development - and are looking to see how both girls and boys participate equally. There has been broad monitoring of many areas of the curriculum; we have listened to the opinions of children, especially through reports from our excellent School Council, and we've listened and responded to staff.

Value for money continues to be a focus of our decision making; resources for our Pupil Premium children, and whole school Maths, have been priorities.

We are aspirational, and have concentrated on raising outcomes for everyone, but with a particular focus on the early years learners; one way we've done this is to improve our knowledge through plenty of extra training.

### **Strategic Committee**

We have spent time evaluating our own performance; this has included a performance review for our Chair of Governors. We've looked in detail at how best to use our skills for support and improvement. Connecting and sharing with, and learning from, other schools in our area has brought benefits in terms of information and skill-sharing.

We are constantly reviewing and learning more about our strategic choices and opportunities, including possibilities around partnership and academies.

### **Health and Safety and Premises Committee**

Parking troubles have been at the heart of our year's work, and - alongside Mrs Jones, the Highways Agency and the Parish Council - we have worked towards raising awareness and improving the safety of the school and wider community.

We're proud that Forncett School now has a Little Room which operates as a nurturing and teaching space. We are careful to make sure that the fabric of the school - inside and out - is of high quality, and continues to offer a safe and inspiring environment for learners.

With safeguarding at the heart of what we do, online safety has been enhanced through policy development and, for example, two parent information evenings based on internet safety and also the in-school PANTS programme.

### **Finance and Resources Committee**

We are delighted to see the Trim Trail - the result of so many people's efforts - finally in use for the children.

While four classes continue to run, and a great deal of energy has gone into closely monitoring and calibrating the budget, we are concerned about the extent and potential impacts of government changes to school funding at this time. We continue to think creatively about how to maximise the funds we receive, for the benefit of every child.

### **How you can contact the governing body:**

We welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors, Kirsty Byrne, via the school office. Please see the school website - and the notice board in the entrance hall - for a full list of our governors and more information about our work.