

## **Governors Annual Statement 2021/22**

The purpose of our governing body is to 'conduct Plaxtol Primary School with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement.' During the last year we have done this with a strong focus on three core functions: ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school.

As Governors we are responsible for overseeing the management side of the school's: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. We do this to enable our school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside our headteacher and supporting teachers, teaching assistants and administrative staff to provide excellent education for all children.

This last year it required a strong commitment to attending governing body meetings which have considered issues such as setting the school vision, mitigating financial risk and scrutinising educational outcomes. Key to this has been an involvement in the school community, acting as critical friends to the headteacher.

We are pleased to have Governors bringing a wide range of skills and expertise from their professional lives to the governing board. This has included experience of finance, law, premises management and the successful leadership of and prior/current work in the field of education. There are also Parent Governors whose insight and personal engagement with our school adds a further important dimension in the performance of our overall governance role.

### **Our core governor responsibilities this year have been:**

Setting the strategic direction of the school along with the Headteacher who then has sole operational responsibility to implement the school's aims and objectives and how the school will develop and improve.

We have reviewed and set numerous policies, formulated plans and agreed targets to help the school achieve these objectives, as well as regularly reviewing the school's improvement plan and its implementation in light of progress made.

In essence the governing body has been there to support and challenge the school's senior leadership team (Head & Assistant Head). We have played a crucial role in holding the Head Teacher to account for securing the best possible outcomes for pupils. By challenging key decisions and asking pertinent questions about the school's performance data, our aim has been to guarantee high standards in the education on offer.

With regard Finance, we have performed a strategic role in the financial management of the schools delegated budget. Our key responsibilities include, setting financial priorities through the school development plan, the financial plan and the annual budget. We have also decided on how the school's delegated budget should be spent in accordance with the school improvement plan and all implicit in the statutory curriculum requirement.

As Parents & Carers it may be helpful to add the following to help you understand how we work.

As Governors we work together to provide independent oversight of the management and operation of Plaxtol Primary School, with the aim of improving the quality of education provided and raising standards. We do not run the school on a day-to-day basis; this is the job of the Head Teacher.

Our full governing body meetings are normally held once a term (6 per year) and whilst there are many important aspects of the role, the most important is the business that takes place at these meetings.

We visit the school to perform our responsibility of monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of Plaxtol Primary School and its curriculum. These visits help us to understand more about our school and the reality of school life. Governor visits to classrooms are not a form of inspection but serve as a clear monitoring function on the implementation of the school's strategic planning.

We have organised our work into Focus Groups which are:

Quality of Education

Behaviour & Attitude and Personal Development

Finance, Staffing & Buildings

Leadership & Management

Some governors are members of one or two focus groups, whose work is reported back to the full governing body. This is so all governors are kept informed of matters and working progress.

Prior to our meetings, we receive an agenda, a copy of the minutes from the previous meeting and any other relevant papers that are to be discussed. The meeting is recorded by our independent clerk and chaired by one of our membership who is voted to the position on an annual basis.