



Elvington Church of England Primary School

Governors' Annual Statement to Parents and Carers 2021

As we approach the summer holidays, we are pleased to be able to report on the work of the governors this school year.

The core functions of the governing body are to:

1. Ensure the clarity of **vision, ethos and strategic direction** of the school
2. Hold the Headteacher to account for the **educational performance** of the school and pupils
3. Oversee **financial performance** and make sure money is well spent



The Governing body team

The Governing body is intended to represent several stakeholder perspectives and skills by representing the school, staff, carers and parents, local authority and the church. On occasion members are specifically invited to join the Governing Body to address specific skill shortages such as financial management skills - these governors are referred to as 'Co-Opted'. The Headteacher is always a member of the Governing Body.

There has been some change to the Governing Body this academic year. The most obvious is our new Headteacher, Mr Buttery, however we have also had two more new governors join our team: Mrs Sophie Packman (Co-Opted Parent Governor) and Mrs Angela Hartley (Co-Opted Governor). Together with Mrs Barbara Ellis (Co-opted Governor, Vice Chair), Mr Chris Bojke (Parent Governor), Mrs Katy McCaffrey (Co-Opted Parent Governor), Mr Stuart Lloyd (Co-Opted Parent Governor), Mrs Rosanne Stanton Jackson (Parent Governor), Mr Phil Watt (Local Authority Governor), Mrs Judith Watson (Staff Governor) and Dr Bill Pigg (Chair & Foundation Governor). Sadly, Mr Morgan left the Governing Body this year. We would like to thank him for his excellent contribution during his tenure. We are regularly looking for new governors, currently we have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor (a governor who is primarily concerned with the essential Christian ethos of the school). Please consider joining us. It is not an onerous role, and it is an excellent way of supporting your school. Any of the governors above, or Mr Buttery, would be happy to talk to you about the role and responsibilities.

Normally the full Governing Body meets at least four times a year - however given the Covid restrictions many of our meetings were held online as were our committee meetings. We have two main committees: Staffing & Finance (Chaired by Mrs Stanton-Jackson) and Attainment & Curriculum (Chaired by Mrs Ellis). There is also a health and safety taskforce and a Headteacher performance committee. We have continued to meet virtually in order to progress the business of the Governing Body.

The most significant change to how we operate as governors this year is a change to how we assign link-governor status. Previously governors were linked to particular classes. Since our re-focus we have created governor links to specific topics, both academic and specialist areas such as staff performance, pupil premium, wellbeing and Special Educational Needs. The academic links enable governors to work with subject leaders to understand the planning, delivery and assessment of subjects and to provide a sounding board to staff and the Governing Body.



Our vision

Governors are responsible for setting the vision and strategic direction of the school. This year we worked, with staff and pupils, to simplify our vision in order to make it accessible to all.

"We are a welcoming, caring and stimulating school. We inspire a love of learning by nurturing potential, fun and happiness. We celebrate our success as we achieve high standards in all aspects of life; allowing children to grow spiritually, morally and socially within a strong Christian ethos."

Once we had settled on our vision statement we worked with pupils and staff to understand what the key elements of our vision meant to them. This depth of understanding ensures that our vision for the school underlies all we do.

This year has marked Mr Buttery's first full year as Headteacher at Elvington having joined us in January of last year. One of his first challenges when he joined was to steer the school through its Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). The successful outcome of this inspection was very pleasing and a testament to how quickly and well Mr Buttery settled into his new role leading Elvington Church of England Primary School. Since his appointment we have seen the re-invigoration of the staff team during an incredibly challenging time.

Educational performance

The Achievement & Curriculum Committee have continued to monitor pupil's progress throughout this academic year. This year has been very difficult due to the Covid 19 restrictions meaning the Governing Body were not allowed in school. Therefore, we have not been able to evidence for ourselves the teaching or meet the children as we would have done normally.

During the lockdown periods, the school very quickly and effectively moved into blended learning. This not only enabled Elvington pupils to continue to access the curriculum for their year groups, but also provided a vital lifeline which ensured teachers and support staff could assist with children's mental health and wellbeing. However, despite all the difficulties, we believe the Headteacher and his team have worked tirelessly as we can see in the fantastic results they have achieved under such difficult circumstances.

In Early years, 82% of pupils achieved GLD (Good level of Development). The cancellation of the phonics screening check in June 2021 has meant that the incoming Year 2 pupils will not have officially taken the check in Year 1. As in the 2020/21 academic year, it will be statutory for schools to administer a past version of the check to Year 2 pupils during the second half of the 2021 autumn term. Current in school assessment (June 2021) show that in the most recent screening checks 87% of pupils passed. These pupils will be provided with additional support as they enter Year 2.

In Year 2, results in Reading, Writing and Mathematics outcomes have fluctuated slightly since the autumn term due to new arrivals during the spring lockdown. The school doesn't yet know how these outcomes will compare with national standards. We do however constitute effective progress from starting points. The school is confident that we will exceed national averages.

Financial performance

School funding and spending is monitored regularly as part of the Staffing & Finance committee. The approach is to enable as much money as possible to be spent in ways that enhance the school experience for the pupils and enable their development, whilst also providing a positive and engaging place for the staff to work. The past year has been difficult in that Covid has provided not only challenges in education but also in cost management. Some costs were reduced as pupils were not in school for periods of time, but other spending increased including the use of technology which enabled learning to continue during lockdown. As ever we endeavoured to make sure that the school buildings were maintained and remained fit for purpose. On balance we are in a reasonable financial position.

The Governors also reviewed the way we spend Government grants for Pupil Premium and Sports Funding to ensure we are using them effectively. In addition to the normal funding, we also received some additional Catch-Up funding to help us boost learning post Covid. Our approach has been focussed on only spending money in ways that had a specific benefit for pupils - in areas that had suffered during lockdown. Each year we compare financial performance, resourcing and pupil outcomes against other schools to ensure we continue to challenge and improve. We compare very favourably on the majority of areas.

In Year 6, 90% of the cohort have either met or exceeded their personalised FFT targets (Note: Fischer Family Trust, or FFT, has developed a package that is designed to support schools and local authorities in analysing school performance data). The school again does not yet know how these outcomes will compare with national standards. The results do again constitute effective progress from starting points. The school is confident that we will exceed the national averages.

Over the last twelve months, the Governing Body have experienced a real team effort amongst all the staff at Elvington. They have worked together to achieve a revised curriculum designed to ensure full coverage of all subjects and progression. Each child now has their own development plan and are responsible for their own learning - as well as involved in assessment and target setting. Progression documents are used to ensure all children know their next steps in learning regardless of the area of curriculum it falls under. This involvement makes an outstanding contribution to the school's ethos and the quality of provision. As a result, progress is strong in reading, writing and maths. Attitude and behaviour amongst pupils in the school is excellent and is a great strength of the school that makes an ongoing contribution to the ethos of learning.

Year 2	Reading	Writing	Maths
National +	89%	78%	83%

Year 6	Reading	Writing	Maths
National +	95%	90%	90%



Promotion of our School

Overall school funding is still mainly determined by the number of pupils that a school has. Maintaining or growing pupil numbers by attracting new families and pupils to our school therefore helps protect our school budget. Building on the existing marketing activity taking place at Elvington, Governors have supported Mr Buttery to develop a Marketing Plan for the school. This is to ensure there is a planned and coordinated effort to attract new families and pupils to our school. Whilst there have been some limitations due to the necessary Covid-19 restrictions, the newly produced virtual tour allowed potential new starters to view the school facilities when access on site was not permitted. Further events and marketing activities have been scheduled for 2021/22 and are dependent on restrictions easing.

Safeguarding and child protection

Elvington has a proactive approach to safeguarding. All members of staff, including TA's, have completed online training on Child Protection and Prevention. This is ongoing. Safeguarding is a priority at the school. Additional measures were put in place this year when home schooling was implemented, including:

- Staff members sent information to parent/ carers reminding them to adhere to protocol at home and internet safety
- A 'Safeguarding Internet' link was shared
- Policy and Proceedings were reviewed and approved by the Governors
- Visits to the school have continued on an essential basis only (e.g. Health & Safety)
- The Headteacher adapted the transition visit for new starters
- The reception children and their parents/carers were able to visit Elvington after school hours in a Covid secure manner
- Elvington staff continue to follow policy and procedures; this is monitored and approved by the Governors

Acknowledgement

The Governors are immensely grateful to Mr Buttery and all his staff for their dedication and tremendous hard work over what has been an incredibly challenging year.

Finally, we would like to thank all the parents, carers and pupils – who each help make our school such a special place. We look forward to seeing you all again soon. Have a wonderful summer.

