



Summerfields Primary School

Annual Governance Statement

The governing body has a general overall responsibility for the effective management of the school, acting within the framework set by national legislation, and with due consideration to the adopted policies of the Local Authority.

The Government requires all school governing bodies to have three core strategic functions. These are:

1. Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
3. Oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure funds are well spent.

Governance arrangements

The Governing Board of Summerfields Primary School currently consists of:

- 2 x Parent Governor (Tara Allman & currently 1 vacancy)
- 1 x Local Authority Governor (Ben Gard)
- 1 x Staff Governor (Jane Bridle)
- 4 x Co-opted Governors (Tony Murphy & Luke Meads & currently 2 vacancies)
- The Headteacher (Kay Wood)

All current Governors at Summerfields have taken on the role voluntarily whilst holding down 'day jobs' as well – why? Each of us recognise the importance of the role and have a passion to ensure all pupils at Summerfields are happy, safe and have a love of learning which is evident in their attitudes to learning, their classrooms, and their books.

Because we are a very small governing body, in order to improve our efficiency, we have elected to break into smaller committees/working groups which study and evaluate documents and practice in specific areas and report back to the full governing body. By working in this way each group can study and understand changes and developments in legislation and what they mean for the school, without becoming overwhelmed.

The working groups are:

- Safeguarding (Tara Allman & Kay Wood)
- Data (Tara Allman & Luke Meads)
- Teaching & Learning (Tony Murphy & Jane Bridle)
- School Development Plan (Tony Murphy & Jane Bridle)
- Disadvantaged Children (Tara Allman & Ben Gard)
- Finance (Luke Meads & Tony Murphy)
- Pay Committee (Tara Allman & Ben Gard)
- Health & Safety (Luke Meads & Ben Gard)
- Performance Management (Tara Allman & Tony Murphy)

The non-confidential minutes of Governors meetings are available via the school office for parents/carers to read.

Celebrating school successes

Our focus, as always, remains firmly directed at improving outcomes for **all** children by delivering high quality teaching and maximising progress and attainment, consistent with the school motto 'We think, we learn, we grow'.

There have been very many successes and achievements this year – for pupils, staff and the whole school. Governors are delighted to acknowledge these and congratulate the school on another busy year. Thank you to our wonderful staff who support the children and encourage them by providing the facilities and teaching skills to enable all children the chance to be the best they can be.

A huge 'thank you' to all the parents who have played an active role in their child's learning throughout the year, whether it be reading at home with your children, helping them with homework, showing your support at school events or taking part in the family challenges – the number of you who took part in the Science Winter Olympic Bobsleigh challenge in particular was astounding with much time, thought and effort clear to see.

We are delighted to see growing links with other local schools, both Primary and Secondary, in a number of areas of the curriculum, not least in sporting activities. Furthermore, the local community links are vital and must be acknowledged. The most notable of these is with our neighbours at the Mountbatten Hospice. Bi-annually the whole school – every pupil and member of staff – Walk the Wight (26 miles) by doing laps of the playground each day, and by doing so help raise

valuable funds for this vital local charity as well as improve their own personal fitness and sense of teamwork. Well done to everyone in the school community who took part.

The academic year culminated with a fantastic KS2 performance which had already seen a charming Early Years/KS1 Christmas show, a joyful May Day celebration and various class and celebration assemblies - we have seen continued parental involvement in these fabulous events and many of these have been included in the school's website gallery and Facebook page.

We wish our outgoing pupils every success as they transition into year 7 at secondary school and look forward to welcoming new arrivals at Summerfields. Likewise, we say a fond farewell and thank you to staff members who are moving onto pastures new and welcome Mr Shipley and Mrs Henning to the teaching staff.

Work Done by the Governing Body

At the beginning of the academic year we undertook a review of skills to ensure that the Governing Body is comprised of people who have the combined skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school, and maintenance of its ethos and strategic direction. We will undertake the same exercise as we enter the new academic year to ensure our individual and collective skills are used in the right way to have the best impact.

Governing Body meetings have been regular and busy. The full Governing Body met at least once each half term with agendas which focused on staffing, pupils, school improvement, standards and curriculum matters, finance, premises, health and safety and safeguarding.

As explained above, named Governors have specific responsibility for one or more areas of school life. In this capacity they visited the school numerous times between September 2017 and July 2018 to meet with school staff and pupils to monitor the impact of the school development plan (SDP). These roles not only link directly with the key school development issues, but also to such areas as Early Years, Special Educational Needs, Health and Safety and Child Protection to name but a few.

Governors also held Governor support meetings with the school advisor from Hampshire throughout the year where we developed our understanding of a variety of aspects in order to support the school more effectively.

One of the fundamental roles for the Governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies and we have reviewed and updated many policies this year and these are available to see on the school website.

Governors were pleased to welcome Ben Gard and Jane Bridle to the Governing Body throughout the academic year. We recognise the importance of training in equipping Governors for most impact, therefore all Governors – old and new - have undertaken formal training to ensure that we are well prepared to support the school. Examples of training which has been undertaken this academic year include Health and Safety, Finance, Safeguarding, SEN, Disadvantaged pupils and Data Analysis.

The Governors monitor the maintenance and development of the school premises and make decisions about the school budget. We produce an annual statement of financial control as required by the Local Authority (SFVS). As with all schools, budgets are tight, but Summerfields budget was continually reviewed throughout the academic year to ensure value for money, thereby ensuring our financial resources are used effectively. The school budget, and Health and Safety practices have been closely monitored, and we thank Mr Reading (School Business Manager) for his tireless commitment in these areas. We are satisfied that the school is able to prioritise funding appropriately, and that everything is done to ensure children's safety, as well as that of the staff and visitors alike.

Governors have a statutory duty for Safeguarding and I (Tara Allman) am our designated Child Protection and Safeguarding Governor. As well as delivering a brief report at each meeting, an annual report on Safeguarding is submitted to the Local authority - there have been no issues of concern. Furthermore, an external Safeguarding audit was undertaken during the Spring term by our Hampshire School Advisor and, again, no issues were identified.

The Governing Body has a duty to monitor our "vulnerable groups" of children and to focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on outcomes. Intervention strategies and their impact on pupil progress are monitored termly. Due to our small cohorts, this information is not published as it could identify individual pupils.

Key Issues faced by the Governing body during 2017-18

- For various reasons, we were sorry to lose 3 Governors – Jacqui Foster, Alan Bound & Dan Olive in the Autumn Term – but we thank them for their time, expertise and support which they gave to the school in their governing capacity. We were delighted to welcome Luke Meads, Ben Gard and Jane Bridle onto the board and we continue to ensure high quality Training and integration of these valuable new Governors.

- Reconstituting the governing body to enable wider reaching recruitment of new governors. Despite a number of opportunities for parent governors to come forward for election over the last few years, sadly we seem unable to attract anyone. Consequently, we felt we had no option but to change the shape of the governing body and reduce the number of parent governor positions.
- Optimising strategic support and challenge to the school with the implementation of regular subject leader reports – not just English and Maths, but all other areas of the curriculum.
- The progress of all pupils is continually monitored and championed throughout the year, and where necessary, rigorously challenged.
- Ensuring that the curriculum prepares pupils for life in modern Britain – the school must deliver a wide curriculum which exposes pupils to many and varied learning experiences all the way through school from Reception to Year 6. Whilst we acknowledge the subjects which are measured via SATS, we strongly support the ethos at Summerfields which ensures that when pupils leave, they leave with more than a set of results, but instead as rounded, independent, supportive and resilient individuals.
- Reviewing safeguarding and updating training accordingly in line with ever changing but vital legislation.
- With much support from our Clerk to Governors, ensuring all policies are up to date and adhered to.
- Reorganisation to a “no committee” structure in order to make governance at Summerfields more efficient and impactful.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our school staff who work so hard to ensure that all children receive the best experiences they can each day. As a result, we can continually strive to ensure standards are maintained and improved. May we also take this opportunity to once again thank our school parents for the continued and unstinting support of your children which enables them to maximise their potential. And finally, the governors and staff are extremely grateful for the work of the volunteers - volunteer readers, those who run a variety of after-school clubs, visitors into school and Friends of Summerfields who **all** play a vital part in enhancing the work of the school.

Future Plans

- Improving the standard in the school by providing focused attention to areas identified on the School Development Plan 2018-19, while still monitoring and maintaining excellence in all other areas.
- In times of a reducing budget, ensuring the school is appropriately resourced and that staff have access to a wide range of training, so that the skills of the teaching and support staff are exemplary.
- Ensure new Governors are appropriately inducted into the role, by providing training and support from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Governor Services, so they can integrate quickly and provide the best support to the school by asking challenging questions and offering appropriate advice.
- Develop governor interaction with parents and the wider community so that ideas and concerns can be investigated and actioned quickly and appropriately.
- We will continue to foster relationships with other schools within the community to share learning and experiences for all members of the school community.

How you can contact the Governing Body?

We would love to hear your views and opinions on our school. The school sends out an annual parent questionnaire – usually in the Spring Term, and we strongly urge all parents to take the time to complete it to help us understand what priorities are important to **you**.

If in the meantime you would like to discuss a particular issue, please contact the Chair (Tony Murphy) in writing via the school office marked ‘for the attention of the Chair of Governors’. You can also look out for governors at school events.

If you or somebody you know would like to join the governing body or find out more about what we do, please feel free to take a leaflet from the school foyer or pass your name to the school office and one of us will get back to you at the first opportunity.

We look forward to another busy and productive year in 2018-19.

Signed on behalf of the Full Governing Body:

Tara Allman (Vice Chair of Governors/Parent Governor)

July 2018