



Summerfields Primary School

Annual Governance Statement – April 2021

The Governing Board 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 boards to have three core strategic functions:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- 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:

- 4 Co-opted Governors
(Tony Murphy – Chair of Governors; Luke Meads; Ben Gard; Catriona Mason)
- Local Authority Governor (Mick Pye)
- Headteacher (Kay Wood)

All current Governors at Summerfields have taken on the role voluntarily. Each of us recognises 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 Board, in order to improve our efficiency, we have elected to break into smaller working groups which study and evaluate documents and practice in specific areas and report back to the Full Governing Board. 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 currently are:

- Safeguarding (Mick Pye & Kay Wood)
- Teaching & Learning (Tony Murphy & Mick Pye)
- School Development Plan (Tony Murphy, Mick Pye & Catriona Mason)
- Disadvantaged Children (Ben Gard & Mick Pye)
- Finance (Luke Meads & Louise Martin, Bursar)
- Pay Committee (Ben Gard, Luke Meads & Catriona Mason)
- Health & Safety (Luke Meads & Ben Gard)
- Performance Management (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'.

Although the past year (since March 2020) has been more than ordinarily challenging due to Covid and a number of lockdowns, we continue to celebrate the positive achievements of all children and the tireless work and dedication of the Summerfields staff in continuing to deliver as balanced and challenging a curriculum as possible, despite a great deal having to be done remotely via Google Classrooms and the dissemination of paper packs.

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

A huge 'thank you' to all parents who have played an active role in their child's learning throughout this period, whether it be via overseeing home learning during lockdown, reading at home with your children, helping them with homework, or showing your support at school.

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, which we continue to support.

The 2018-19 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 saw continued parental involvement in these fabulous events and many were included in the school's website gallery and Facebook page.

Such events have been harder to organise over the past 12 months because of lockdown, but we are hoping to fully return to these for the 2021-22 academic year.

We wish our outgoing pupils every success as they prepare to transition into Year 7 at secondary school and look forward to welcoming new arrivals at Summerfields in September. Likewise, we say a fond farewell and thank you to staff members who are moving onto pastures new and welcome the new additions to both teaching and admin staff.

Work Done by the Governing Board

At the beginning of the academic year, we undertake a review of skills to ensure that the Governing Board 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 each new academic year to ensure our individual and collective skills are used in the right way to have the best impact.

Governing Board meetings have been regular and busy. The Full Governing Board meet at least once each half term with agendas which focus 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 2019 and March 2020, and then remotely during lockdown periods, to meet with school staff and pupils to monitor the impact of the school development plan (SDP). These roles not only link directly with key school development issues, but also to specific areas.

Governors also hold support meetings with the school advisor from Hampshire throughout the academic year to develop understanding in order to support the school more effectively.

One of the fundamental roles for Governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies and many policies have been reviewed and updated this year, which are available on the school website.

We recognise the importance of training to equip Governors for most impact, and all Governors undertake regular training to ensure that they are well prepared to support the school.

The Governors monitor maintenance and development of the school premises and make decisions about the school budget. We produce an annual statement of financial control (SFVS) as required by the Local Authority. As with all schools, budgets are tight but Summerfields' budget is continually reviewed throughout the academic year to ensure value for money, thereby ensuring financial resources are used effectively.

The school budget and Health & Safety practices have been closely monitored and we thank our finance team, especially the Bursar, for their tireless commitment. 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 staff and visitors.

Governors have a statutory duty for Safeguarding and Mick Pye is 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. Furthermore, an external Safeguarding audit is regularly undertaken by our Hampshire School Advisor.

The Governing Board has a duty to monitor "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 Board during September 2019 - April 2021

- For various reasons, we were sorry to lose two Governors – Jane Bridle and Bryan Pyner - at the end of the 2020 Summer Term and another Governor – Mark Lofthouse – during the 2021 Spring Term but we thank them for their time, expertise and support which they gave to the school in their governance capacity.
- Optimising strategic support and challenge to the school with the submission and consideration 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 academic 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. Whilst we acknowledge the subjects measured via SATs, we strongly support the ethos that ensures when pupils leave, they leave not just with a set of results but also as rounded, independent, supportive and resilient individuals.

- Reviewing safeguarding and updating training accordingly in line with ever-changing but vital legislation.

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 the opportunity to once again thank our 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 2019-20, 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.
- Ensuring 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.
- Developing governor interaction with parents and the wider community so that ideas and concerns can be investigated and actioned quickly and appropriately.
- Continuing 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 Board?

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 Board 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 2020-21.

Signed on behalf of the Summerfields Governing Board:

Tony Murphy (Chair of Governors/Co-opted Governor)

April 2021