

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Alington and Bergh Apton
COE VA Primary School July 2017**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Alington and Bergh Apton COE VA Primary School's 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.**

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Alington and Bergh Apton Primary School is made up of 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor, 1 elected staff Governor, 1 Head Teacher and 8 Foundation Governors.

Succession planning has continued to be a priority in the last year and new governors have been recruited. Three governors have shared the role of Chair, each completing a term in office. This has been particularly successful as it has enabled each Chair to develop a wider perspective of school governance. Our governors include people with a wide range of skills including the educational, public, business, health, financial and engineering sectors. They all contribute to the effective governance of a very successful school.

The full Governing Body meets twice each term (6 meetings a year). In addition we have three committees which consider different aspects of the school in detail.

Ethos Committee: this advises the Governing Body and the school on all matters related to the school's Christian character and ethos and the effective implementation of its values.

School Effectiveness Committee: this is responsible for the setting of targets, the provision of the statutory curriculum and the performance of staff and pupils as well as communication with parents and the wider community.

Resources Committee: this focuses on finance, premises and personnel matters including pay.

Attendance record of governors

Governors have good attendance at FGB meetings and we have never cancelled a FGB meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).

The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body

Governors on the School Effectiveness Committee have continued to spend considerable time monitoring key data. This has included: progress in reading and termly formative assessment in reading, writing and mathematics. In doing this, we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. Within discussions, the Committee is particularly focused on children who may have special needs; how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on outcomes. In working with parents, the Committee has also reviewed the Home-School Agreement and considered responses to outcomes from the annual Parent Questionnaire. It has also been interested in the views of pupils with regards to the reading culture that is embedded in school life. A number of policies have been reviewed in detail as part of the annual review cycle including Behaviour; the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies (including Whistleblowing and Prevent) and the SEND Local Offer.

The Resources Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises, setting and monitoring the school budget and facilitating the on-going strategic objective of the Board of Governors to ensure the financial stability of the school for the foreseeable future. With this in mind together with the opportunity to redecorate and equip the old school hall and return it to its original use as a teaching space, the Resources Committee have overseen the careful financial planning required to enable the appointment of another teacher for a separate Year 3 class as from September 2017. Consequently the 2017-2018 school budgets shows a healthy financial position demonstrating the good financial planning and stewardship of the Committee and the Head teacher.

The Ethos Committee identifies and reinforces the common experiences, shared values and beliefs which promote the school's ethos and vision. It monitors and evaluates the processes which promote the ethos and vision to the whole school community. It reviews and monitors the provision of daily and collective worship. To this end governors have been in school to attend child-led assemblies, class assemblies, Open Book assemblies and assemblies which introduce R.E. days. Governors have attended training at Diocesan House on the new Understanding Christianity project which is to be introduced into all schools. This project is to help all teachers support pupils in KS1, KS2 and KS3, in developing their own thinking and understanding of Christianity

One overriding priority for all Governors is the safeguarding of all children. We have a nominated Governor for Safeguarding who reports annually to the Governing Body. Safeguarding training has been attended by key Governors and staff in the last months. Governors receive half termly safeguarding reports from the Head Teacher and it is a standing item on all FGB and staff meetings. In 2017 the Head Teacher and Safeguarding Governor carried out a detailed audit of all safeguarding policies and procedures. There were no areas of concern and the results were forwarded to the Local Authority.

Monitoring continues to be an important activity for Governors and Dig Deep Day in March 2017 was a valuable opportunity to engage with parents and even grandparents, as well as observing lessons, attending assembly, talking with the foundation subject leaders about developments in their subjects, meeting with the School Council and engaging with children at play and at lunch. We also went on a curriculum walk and a premises walk. The Parent Questionnaire answers were examined and some suggestions have been taken forward. School policies are regularly discussed and updated after discussion with staff. The governors have continued to visit school to complete monitoring classes, to attend special events in school and the community, to take part in collective worship, to support school trips, to carry out health and safety checks and to oversee the appointment of a new

	<p>teacher.</p> <p>Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents — you can obtain copies of approved minutes from the school office.</p>
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<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>The school continues to be a very popular choice with parents from inside and outside of our catchment area. The school is growing in a sustainable way and the governors will continue to secure the best possible outcomes for all children at school. We will strive to strengthen the skill set and experiences of the Governing Body such as the collaborative Chair's role which has been very successful and fulfilling for those involved, and we will continue to build on this model.</p>
<p>How you can contact the governing body</p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents — please contact the Chair of Governors via the school office. You can see the full list of governors and more information on which we are on the Governors' page of the school website.</p>