

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Alington and Bergh Apton
COE VA Primary School July 2019**

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, 6 Foundation Governors and 1 Co-opted Governor.

There are Governors responsible for Sports Premium, Safeguarding, SEND, LAC, RSE and the Headteacher's Performance.

Michael Hibbin has undertaken the role of Chair of Governors following 2 previous years as joint Chair and 4 years as Vice Chair. Governor succession is considered at each Full Governors Meeting to maintain strong governance from people with a wide range of skills including the educational, public, business, health, financial, engineering and charitable sectors.

The full Governing Body meets twice each Autumn, Spring and Summer term. There is an extra meeting in April to set the budget.

The 3 committees discuss different aspects of the school. The Headteacher is a member of each committee and 2 of the 3 committees meet each half term.

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 these have never been cancelled due to not being quorate. Most committee meetings are also well attended.

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

The **School Effectiveness Committee** continues to focus on matters relating to statutory curriculum provision and pupil and staff performance. It looks at the implementation of the school's vision and values and the communication of this to parents/carers and the wider community. It has a shared responsibility for the effective safeguarding of pupils and staff.

This year it has worked with the Headteacher to ensure the continuation of a robust monitoring programme which focuses on the key areas within the School Development Plan such as RSE; Foundation Subjects; role of the Subject Leader in terms of monitoring and progress; writing at greater depth at KS2; English; extending in the use of a rich vocabulary; the EYFS learning environment and ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum. 'Book Looks', curriculum walks, discussions with pupil groups, subject leaders and key staff have supported evidence gathering and the triangulation process in considering standards across the school. Discussions around pupil progress and pupil attainment have been a regular agenda item and there has been ongoing shared discussion around the implementation of the new RSE curriculum. Policy reviews of key policies pertinent to curriculum have also been undertaken in addition to considering views of parents and pupils through annual surveys in relation to the overall educational experience of all pupils.

Collaborative work between the staff and Senior Leaders from Aplington, Thurton and Earsham schools, including regular writing moderation, has continued to have a mutual benefit and continues to have a positive impact on the excellent practice seen within school. In doing all of this we can be sure that the school is on track to meet its ambitious targets for all pupils with writing being a key focus this year.

In considering the importance of a broad and balanced curriculum the Headteacher and committee have undertaken lengthy discussions on how to ensure that this continues to be a priority, particularly in SATs years and with the structure of mixed age classes. This is of importance ahead of a new OFSTED Framework.

The pupils at Aplington continue to make accelerated progress in core subjects, as well as having access to a wide range of subjects and experiences, particularly in the areas of sport, music and outdoor learning. The committee, which includes the SEND Governor, has also been proactive in discussions regarding changes to SEND funding and the wider implications of this decision by Norfolk County Council and the effect it will have on provision for the future. This year has seen a particular concern for cuts in monies available to support pupils with SEND and how this will impact on resources of the school.

Overall, this rigorous programme has ensured that the committee are confident that the school continues to move forward with educational developments, adjusts its practice accordingly and keeps parents/carers well informed.

The **Resources Committee** oversees the maintenance and development of the school premises (including Health and Safety), contributes to the school development plan, sets and monitors the school budget, as well as facilitating the ongoing strategic objective of the Board of Governors to ensure the financial stability of the school for the foreseeable future. The Resources Committee has continued to work hard in securing much needed financial support to ensure our school building has the space and facilities to create a good environment for learning. This is always a challenge as the general funds the school receives primarily cover the direct day to day costs of educating our pupils.

This year has been particularly challenging with regards to central funding support as there have been a few issues which have resulted in real terms funding cuts and changes in policy which have affected the school adversely. These include; Changes

to Norfolk LEA Fair Funding Formula, teachers' pension contribution increase (without certainty on future years grant funding), living wage increase effects from last year and two family's children leaving the school for the private sector. The school management team assisted by the Resources committee have reacted to this and taken appropriate financial steps to allow the school to show a balanced budget (this has taken significant changes to achieve). This includes cuts in external support for music and French, cuts to support staff (effective Easter 2020) and general reduction in budgets for all aspects of the school (class resources etc). Due to good budget management and investment over the previous three years by the School Management team major expenditure for facilities and renovations are in place to allow for reduced forecast expenditure.

In the school year completion of the re-modelling of the cloakrooms has been completed with additional redecoration and refresh of some facilities.

The school continues to be supported by parents with excellent attendance and support at fund raising events. The Friends association continues to be proactive and raise funds for school.

The school continues to be popular with the full reception class being filled from first preferences.

The resources committee has also been responsible for managing the program to recruit a new headteacher for the school following retirement notification of the current head (currently envisaged for the end of 2019). The Chair of Governors has led this process with interview process planned for September 2020. This will be a focus for the resources committee in 2019/20 supporting the interview and recruitment process.

The **Ethos Committee** identifies and reinforces the common experiences, shared values and beliefs which promote the school's ethos, vision and identity. The Headteacher reports on the different assemblies (whole school, class, Open Book, child-led, celebration and special events) which make up the daily and collective worship requirements. Visitors are regularly invited to contribute to an assembly. Governors have continued to monitor the introduction of the new Understanding Christianity curriculum. Church schools are assessed according to a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) framework and Governors have attended training on this. The RE coordinator has worked hard this year to put together the Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) for the SIAMS, which focusses on the school's Vision, Provision and the Impact of this. The SEF form has been reviewed and added to by the committee and staff. The new Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and new RE curriculums have also been discussed.

Safeguarding is a priority for all Governors. The Headteacher reports each half term on Safeguarding in her reports. It is always a separate item on the FGB agenda and on each committee agenda. The Safeguarding Governor attends the relevant training.

Monitoring of pupil progress is always included in the Headteacher's reports. Our results at YR, KS1 and KS2 show the achievements attained by our hard-working pupils. Dig Deep Day was a successful in depth look at the school including lesson observations, meetings with subject leaders and the School Council, assembly participation, lunchtime and playtime. The Governors gave feedback to the staff and written reports are on Governorhub. Governors have seen the results from the Parent Questionnaire and the Pupil Questionnaire and discussed the outcomes.

The Headteacher has spent many hours recently preparing for the new General Data Protection Regulation. New policies have been read and endorsed by the

	<p>Governors.</p> <p>As Governors we are indebted to our teaching and support staff. The staff are very proactive and give willingly of their skills and time. We recognise the strength of the school's teaching staff team. The staff demonstrate a wealth of experience and this has been freely shared with new teaching colleagues.</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 Governors are committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for children at the school and continually monitor the suitability of our buildings and facilities to offer the best possible learning environment for our pupils. At the same time Governors are mindful of the increasing demand for places at the school and how the school might respond to ensure the school continues to flourish and thrive long into the future.</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>