



Governing Board Annual Governance Statement Gorse Hall Primary and Nursery School November 2020

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all Governing Boards, the three core strategic functions of the Perfect Primary School Governing Board is:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Headteacher 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 Board of Gorse Hall Primary and Nursery School was re-constituted in 2014 and is now made up of the Head Teacher, one staff Governor, two elected Parent Governors, one Local Authority Governor, four Co-opted Governors and two associate members. Co-opted Governors are appointed by the Governing Board and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Board, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school, this includes finance, buildings, business and community expertise and knowledge. On our Governing Board two of the Co-opted Governors are parents of children who are at Gorse Hall, one is a retired staff member and one is a current Gorse Hall teacher. The full Governing Board meets once each term, and we also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. This includes a Curriculum Committee, and a Pay, Performance and Premises Committee. We also have committees that are only convened if required to consider other matters – for example pupil discipline or complaints. In addition to the scheduled and ad-hoc meetings, all Governors are committed and pro-actively engage with the school on a regular basis as part of their role or links with the school.

Attendance Record of Governors

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not "quorate". The Governor meeting attendance record can be found on the website.

The work carried out by the Governing Board

The Governing Board has had another busy year with the main focus being to develop our working parties and securing and establishing new relationships.

The Governing Board continues to work closely with the school and parents to maintain the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA), attend school events, and undertake Governor training. The Curriculum Committee has spent time considering the key data giving the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school continues to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. We also review the progress of our vulnerable group of children and focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their outcomes. The Finance, Premises and Personal Committee oversees the on-going maintenance and development of the school premises, and supports the Headteacher in making decisions about how the school should use the budget. Our Health and Safety Inspection has been carried out by an independent inspector with the school's caretaker. Governors also monitor safeguarding policy and practice and we have regular reports about any safeguarding matters. The Governing Board partake in monitoring opportunities in order to have a contextual understanding of school development work whilst enjoying the opportunities to secure pupil voice and find out about the Curriculum. The Governor blog was launched late 2014, it has evolved into a School Blog and can now be accessed via the school website home page. New posts are added on a regular basis to tell you about day to events that take place at the school and school development itself. During Lockdown our School Facebook Page was launched as a communication vehicle and as a celebration vehicle for events, initiatives and achievements. One of the roles for the Governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, copies of the latest versions can be found on the school website or can be requested via the school office. Minutes of Governing Board meetings are public documents. Please ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.

Educational Performance

- The School's Curriculum offers opportunities for children to acquire knowledge, develop subject specific skills and key skills for learning whilst fostering positive learning behaviours. KS2 outcomes are consistently of high quality. Progress in Reading is above average (3.06) and in Writing (0.53) and Maths (0.70) is average. Attainment in all areas is above National Averages for Pupils attaining the Expected National Standard and for those Pupils achieving the Expected Standard in Reading, Writing and Maths Combined.
- On entry into Reception the majority of our pupils are slightly below average attainment expectations. Half of the pupils on entry have not attended our Nursery and have attended various PV settings. A significant number of pupils (86%) who attended Gorse Hall Nursery achieved a Good Level Development compared to pupils who attended external local nurseries (38%). GLD for the 2019 cohort is 65%.
- Attainment and progress of key groups (Disadvantaged/gender/SEND) is good. This is demonstrated in the End of Year KS2 results.
- KS1 data is pleasing and indicates an improvement from previous year in all subjects. Those pupils achieving Greater Depth has improved from previous year in Reading and Writing.
- Middle Achievers secured pleasing outcomes in all subjects following rigorous monitoring, tracking and intervention.

Areas for Development

1. Quality of Education

To develop a recovery curriculum that identifies and addresses gaps in learning, with a particular focus on disadvantaged learners.

2. Behaviour and Attitudes

To improve the outcomes for all pupils and staff through the further development of resilience, as active and responsible individuals, with a focus on loss.

3. Personal Development

To develop, implement and evaluate a clear pastoral PSHE/RSE programme to enhance the well-being of all pupils and staff.

4. Leadership and Management

Further develop Subject Leadership to enable teachers to have the skills and knowledge to deliver, implement and evaluate quality first teaching and learning.

Future plans for the Governors

We are all very proud to have received the 2017 Ofsted outcome and we are committed to working with the school leadership team to maintain the high standards achieved.

The rolling programme of school refurbishment will continue and details can be found in the asset management plan on the website. The Governors are keen to meet link staff within the school to have regular communication and to find out about the developments within key phases and subjects during the academic year.

How you can contact the Governing Board

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/ carers – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr Goodchild, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors and their BIO on the Governors' page of the school website.

