



## **Governing Board Annual Governance Statement**

### **Gorse Hall Primary and Nursery School**

**November 2023**

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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 and five Co-opted Governors. Co-opted Governors are appointed by the Governing Board and are people who possess the skills and experience required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school, this includes finance, buildings, business and community expertise and knowledge. 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 and Outcomes Committee; Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee; and Pay 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 timetabled 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 understanding of the Curriculum and its outcomes for all learners. 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 and Outcomes Committee has spent time considering data, so that we can be sure that the school continues to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. They also review the progress of key groups of pupils and focus on how the Pupil Premium and Sports Premium Grants are being spent by the school and most importantly 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 and School Business Manager in making decisions about how the school should use the budget. Our Health and Safety Inspection has been carried out by the Local Authority's Health and Safety Team. Governors also monitor the Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and practice and they are updated 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. During Lockdown our School Facebook Page was launched as a communication vehicle about school development, 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.

Ofsted July 2023... 'Governors are enthusiastic members of the school community. They support and challenge leaders well'.

School Development Plan Priorities this academic year:

**1. Quality of Education**

**To further strengthen the quality of early reading provision.**

**To further develop metacognitive strategies with a particular focus on cognitive overload.**

**2. Behaviour and Attitudes**

**To implement the behaviour policy consistently (including rewards and sanctions).**

**3. Personal Development**

**Through the Emotionally Friendly Settings Programme, continue to promote and support the emotional and mental health of pupils and staff.**

**4. Leadership and Management**

**To further embed and sustain effective Subject Leadership to enable teachers to have the skills and knowledge to deliver, assess and evaluate quality first teaching and learning.**

**Future plans for the Governors**

We are committed to working with the school Leadership Team to achieve ambitious outcomes, support the further development of the school Curriculum and engage and assist in the development of the School Development Plan. We offer support and robust challenge to secure the best possible outcomes for all learners. Governors plan to monitor the quality of phonics and writing; the governor responsible for safeguarding will feedback at each full GB meeting- with a focus on anti- bullying and filtering and monitoring; Governors will work with leaders to refine equality objectives to reflect the current context The rolling programme of school refurbishment will continue and details of this 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 subjects and areas 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 Micheal O’Dowd, via the school office. You can see the full list of Governors and their Biographies on the Governors’ page of the school website.