

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Cliffe VC Primary School

July 2015

In accordance with the requirements for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Cliffe VC Primary School Governing Body are:

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 Body of Cliffe VC Primary School was reconstituted in April 2015 and is now made up of:

- 3 parent governors
- 1 local authority governor
- 1 staff governor
- Headteacher
- 2 foundation governors
- 4 co-opted governors

Foundation governors are appointed by The Mary Waud Foundation.

For an effective governing body and the success of the school, a range of skills are required by governors and co-opted governors are chosen for the skills which they can bring to the school. Only parent governors are subject to a voting system.

The governing body has a programme of meetings throughout the school year, and a committee structure that focuses on specific areas of governance. At Cliffe School we have two committees, one for Finance and related items such as personnel and property, the other committee is Achievement which focuses on the curriculum, teaching and learning and children's progress. There are four full Governing Body meetings per year and a minimum of six committee meetings.

This year we have also formed a Rapid Improvement Group which focuses primarily on the Ofsted action points and meets at least once a month. This group comprises, Mary Lumley, Carole Middleton and Mrs Hay.

All the committees report directly to the full Governing Body. Meetings have to be quorate to ensure that decisions can be made.

The work we have done this year in committees and in the governing body meetings:

The year started in September 2014 with a full complement of permanent staff for the first time in a number of years and this meant that the school could begin to move forward and improve in a much stronger position. The governing Body also had a new chair in Mrs Carole Middleton and some new governors.

Ofsted came sooner than we would have liked, before the impact of a stable staff could be evidenced and we were disappointed with the judgement of 'Requires Improvement' although it was a fair assessment of the school at the time.

The School Development Plan was revised to include the Ofsted recommendations. It was formulated by staff and agreed by the Governing Body and the Local Authority. It was also endorsed by Her Majesty's Inspector in January 2015.

The role of the Governing Body this year has been to monitor the plan and ensure that the school is making rapid and sustainable improvements.

Three governors are responsible for three areas of the plan and monitor it on a regular basis. Three different governors form the Rapid Improvement Group and focus on specific aspects of the plan. All governors have a specific responsibility, see the list of governors, and is tasked with monitoring their area at least once a term. Each governor is expected to visit the school regularly, get to know the school on a normal working day and meet staff and children, be available to parents on a regular basis and attend training.

This year we have had a Governors Review which has helped us move forward as a Governing Body and improve our effectiveness. We have also had two sessions of Local Authority training.

The Chair of Governors also meets with officers of the Local Authority and Her Majesty's Inspector as they monitor the school.

Cliffe School has made great improvements this year and put in place many strategies to secure a better education for the children. Some have brought short term gains, others will take time to show impact. We are confident, however, that Cliffe is an improving school and we are all committed to ensuring a judgement of 'good' in the not too distant future.

A summary of the Action Plan for 2015-2016 will be available on the school website in September 2015.

Minutes of the Full Governing Body are available on the school website.

We value the views of parents and you may email me personally (Carole Middleton Chair) cmmiddleton30@gmail.com or contact any of us through school.

Cliffe VC School Governing Body – Membership

Governor and responsibilities	Category	Date of expiry of office
Mrs C Middleton		
Chair of Governors & Safeguarding Governor	Co-opted Governor	20/04/2019
Mrs M Lumley	Co-opted Governor	20/04/2019
Mr P Hopkins	Co-opted Governor	20/04/2019
Mr A Jacques	Foundation Governor	14/08/2016
Mr M Jordan	Foundation Governor	25/02/2019
Mrs K McSherry	LA Governor	31/08/2017
Mr J Dunwell		
Vice Chair of Governors	Parent Governor	31/10/2016
Mr R Abbott		
Health & Safety Governor	Parent Governor	31/10/2016
Mrs C Capewell	Staff Governor	17/07/2018
Mrs S Hay		
Headteacher	Staff Governor	n/a

Vacancies:

Co-opted Governor

Parent Governor – election to take place in September 2015