



Governors' Annual Report to Parents **2018 to 2019**

We are fortunate to have a Governing Body with a good breadth of skills and experience, who support our school community. The Governing Body carry out a wide range of responsibilities for the benefit of our children, parents/carers and staff. The role of the governing body has three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent (DfE 2014)

A key role for the team is to ensure that the children at Sheriff Hutton progress appropriately in their education and we appreciate that for this to happen, the children must be supported by a well led, enthusiastic, professionally competent and motivated staff all working together within a safe and supportive learning environment.

As Governors of a good school we continue to work hard to ensure the school sustains and continues positive improvement. We appreciate too that parents and carers need to be satisfied about the overall leadership and management of the school to ensure their children feel safe and make good progress whilst enjoying their learning.

To achieve our objectives, Governors too must continually evaluate the role we play within the life of the school and publish relevant information to all interested parties. This statement and report are part of that evaluation and publication process.

Who are we?

HEAD TEACHER: Bev Stell

PARENT GOVERNORS: Richard Crabtree, Julie Brownbridge, Crispin Thorn, Catherine Butt (Vice Chair), Gabriel Horgan.

LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR: Vacancy

STAFF GOVERNOR: Jon Fewlass

CO-OPTED GOVERNORS: Margaret Fisher (Chair), Andrea Pitman (Vice Chair), Terry Fisher, Tessa Vass, Duncan Noble.

We meet six times a year as a Full Governing Body and each of the four sub committees also meet regularly. In her role as head teacher, Mrs Stell, attends all of these meetings.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE (Terry Fisher, Julie Brownbridge, Catherine Butt, Margaret Fisher)

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Duncan Noble, Crispin Thorn, Richard Crabtree)

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (Crispin Thorn, Catherine Butt, Duncan Noble)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (Margaret Fisher, Terry Fisher, Tessa Vass, Andrea Pitman)

What have been our successes this year?

- All teaching across the school continues to be at least good.
- Improved outcomes for pupils at Key Stage 2.
- Exciting Forest Schools opportunities for our children.



How did the Governors help the school to achieve this?

Sheriff Hutton Governors have an ambition to challenge the school to achieve the best outcomes for the children's learning, whilst keeping their safety and welfare at the forefront of all our decision making. Governors support and challenge the decisions made about the children's education. We monitor school improvement through regular visits to undertake learning walks and meet with school leaders; we attend training, observe children's attitudes to learning and monitor children's achievement through scrutiny of progress reports from school leaders.

The local Authority supports governors by offering a range of courses and through school improvement support at termly meetings with the chair of Governors and school leaders. This academic year, Governors have received training in a range of subjects including:

- Safeguarding
- The role of Heads, Chairs and Clerks
- Termly Heads and Chairs conferences to provide updates on recent government and local policy and initiatives

The three main roles for Governors:

1) Setting the strategic direction

Governors work with the school to review and scrutinise new school policies in line with statutory requirements. Governors have set themselves and the School the goal of achieving an Outstanding grading from OFSTED. The School Development plan and personal goals/objectives for the Headteacher and Staff are directly linked to this.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SDP) - Governors work co-operatively with the head teacher and senior management in writing and monitoring the School Development Plan. The School Development Plan sets targets for the forthcoming year. The current SDP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SDP is set out with clear targets, the key tasks which will be completed in order to achieve these targets and the success criteria in order to measure outcomes. The SDP is monitored and reviewed six times a year at each Full Governing Body meeting, with an evaluation overview being completed by the head teacher and presented to governors at the end of each academic year.

The impact of this work has been that by the end of the EYFS, children are working broadly in line with national expectations. Attainment at the school continues to improve and it is very pleasing that this year's KS2 assessment results show that almost 50% of Year 6 children were working at greater depth in reading.

The 2019/20 targets of the School Development Plan are:

- ❖ To ensure children have access to an inspiring curriculum that provides opportunities for challenge, enrichment and collaboration, through the development of a clear progression of knowledge and skills.
- ❖ To develop maths teaching for mastery through KS1 and KS2, helping to raise attainment and increase progress for all pupils and groups, including vulnerable and disadvantaged learners.
- ❖ To establish children as high quality writers, embedding strategies such as scaffolding and collaborative learning in order to increase the number of children in both KS1 and KS2 achieving greater depth in writing.
- ❖ To build the school's capacity to understand HBT bullying and to deal with it effectively.



- ❖ To promote self-responsibility, respect and tolerance for others as part of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- ❖ To further improve the effectiveness of subject leaders, ensuring that monitoring in all subjects is enabling leaders to make accurate judgements about how to improve teaching and learning in their subjects.
- ❖ To continue to develop high levels of governance, enabling appropriate support and challenge for all school leaders.
- ❖ Early Years leaders use precise assessments to plan activities that suitably challenge all children.

The Governing Body will continue in its drive to raise standards by setting challenging targets for improvement. Clear targets are set for the head teacher, and in turn for the staff. Targets relate to the children's progress, the school development plan and leadership of curriculum subjects.

2) Holding the head teacher to account

Governors monitor school progress and improvement through termly headteacher's reports, data scrutiny and school visits. Governors know what the school does well and we help school leaders to identify areas for improvement.

The Governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SDP and of specific issues. These visits are considered a valuable opportunity for Governors to be able to work closely with staff members across the school. This year, Governors have undertaken learning walks and have met with staff on an individual basis to discuss school priorities.

Data is made available to Governors through termly meetings which include verbal and written presentations, followed by question and answer sessions with the head teacher and members of the senior management team. In this way, the governors are able to benchmark their data against similar schools, the Local Authority and schools nationally to ensure the school's standards and expectations are high and are able to be closely scrutinised. This year teachers with subject leadership responsibility for maths and English have also reported termly to the Governing body on children's progress and attainment. Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium (a grant to support children in receipt for free school meals, children in care and Forces children).

A team of Governors meet with the head teacher and a local authority advisor to undertake head teacher appraisal, reviewing and setting rigorous targets. The Governors monitor the staff appraisal process and performance related pay to ensure that similar rigorous targets are in place and that staff are held to account.

3) Overseeing financial performance

Key members of the governing body have been trained in School Finance management and have worked with school staff to achieve The Schools Financial Value Standard accreditation. Governors meet regularly with the headteacher to set and monitor the school budget to ensure best value for money and that money is spent well. The closing of accounts was agreed at the end of the financial year 2018/2019 and a new budget was set for the year ahead. Governors ensure that the budget reflects the priorities of the school development plan for the year ahead and check the impact of specific funding on children's attainment and achievements.



Future and Continuous improvement

- The school is working closely with other local schools and has formed a close working 'cluster' with Easingwold Area Partnership. This provides opportunities for school improvement through reciprocal support, evaluation, moderation and shared training. As Governors, we are also keen to engage with governors of other schools in the cluster to exchange ideas and benchmark progress and performance.
- The Governing Body continues to encourage and widen opportunities for all staff, in conjunction with the headteacher, by continuing our commitment to an association with the North Star Teaching Alliance. The Alliance is a partnership of schools that work collaboratively and offer bespoke training and continued professional development to all members.
- Governors will work to continue to enhance the school site.
- In line with the Ofsted Inspection framework, Governors will continue to develop our own strategic planning in line with requirements in our ambition to become an 'Outstanding' school.

As a Governing Body we would like to thank all parents for the very generous contributions that are made through various fundraising events during the year. This additional money has allowed the school to purchase a number of valuable resources and put money towards improvement projects; for example: ~~new dining tables and chairs~~our wonderful corridor wall. It subsidised a range of educational visits and visitors including a trip to ~~Eureka!~~the beach. The Governing Body are really grateful to those who put the time and tremendous effort into making these opportunities happen, in particular the work of our strong and supportive PTFA.

The Governing Body and Senior Management Team are constantly striving to improve and develop the school. As we look forward to another busy year, we will continue to work hard to ensure that the teaching and learning and safety of your children is central in all that we do.

Margaret Fisher
Chair of Sheriff Hutton Governing Body