



Cockton Hill Infants' School

Nurture – Experience – Respect - Community

Introduction

The core strategic functions of the Governing Body are to:

- 1. To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**
- 2. To hold the Headteacher to account for educational performance of the school and its pupils**
- 3. To oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent**

These functions compliment the School's Vision and Values of:

Each child to reach their potential within a happy school environment. To achieve this, we have four key values (Nature Experience, Respect, and Community) that underpin both our curriculum and indeed school life.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body was re-constituted in February 2015 and consists of the following members:

The Headteacher, 1 Staff, 1 Authority, 4 Co-opted, Parent Governors and one Associate Governor

Co-opted governors are co-opted by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

As a Governing Body, we are fully committed to the strategic functions of good school governance recognising that we are not responsible for the day-to-day management of the school.

The Governing Body in fulfilling its functions, delegates specific work to a number of committees. These include and cover,

Finance Premises & Staffing, Curriculum, Performance & Pay progression, and Head Teacher Performance. Other committees are setup, and meet as and when required.

As well as attending the Governing Body and committee meetings, governors have specific responsibilities and visit the school frequently during the year.

The Full Governing Body follows an action plan to ensure responsibilities are completed throughout the year. It considers key data, receives updates from the different committees, sets school budget, considers safeguarding provision, and Special Education Needs.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is at the forefront of everything we do. Keeping children safe in our school covers a broad set of responsibilities. This includes, but is not exhaustive: appropriate

policies and practices, ensuring attendance is managed, training, all staff and governors have safeguarding training and regular updates, a named governor safeguarding link, and ensuring the school fabric and estates are fit for purpose.

2023-2024

Our Governing Body changed during the year with 2 governors leaving for personal reasons, and two joining. We have one vacancy, parent governor. Again, we had a particularly busy time, focusing on continuing school improvement and looking forward to moving ahead with the leadership team.

The Governing Board met termly and all sub-committees met as per requirements. There was also a busy involvement with school life, monitoring visits and the Chair of Governors (CoG) and Headteacher meeting half-termly.

All areas of governance were covered. We have excellent attendance at these meetings

We are all concerned about our "vulnerable groups" of children and focused on how the Pupil Premium Grant was spent by the school and what impact this had on their outcomes. We also focussed our provision for children with SEND. At the end of the year, recognising the growing need for dedicated classroom facilities the 'Butterfly Room' was extended.

The Finance, Premises, and Staffing Committee looked at the maintenance and development of the school premises, and made decisions on how the school should use the budget. We focused on appropriate expenditure and were able to address a number of estates issues e.g. replacement windows, improved heating, extended outdoor wildlife area, Butterfly Room extension. Early in the summer term each year the Finance Committee approve the annual budget plan for the school.

We are pleased to report that the school is in a healthy position financially and can afford to maintain the current staffing structure.

With an Ofsted inspection due training was provided for governors and an update statement provided for teachers.

Various survey results were received to evaluate:

- Skill set of the Governing Board
- Well-being of the school staff
- Opinions and views of parents

2024-2025

A list of our current governors, with any declaration of interests can be viewed on the school website.

Already, the Action Plan has been agreed and will direct our actions, governors are undertaking safeguarding updates, and are working through the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' document.

Safeguarding will continue to be at the forefront of thoughts and actions.

Governors will again be monitoring the school activities, and report back to the Governing Board. The CoG and Headteacher will be meeting half termly.

Our key strategic functions, as listed at the head of this document will be fundamental to our work.

Receipt of school data, budgets, headteacher reports, school improvement plan and self-evaluation reports, various surveys, along with monitoring and school visits will aid our governance and decisions,

We will endeavour to fill the vacant governor position

School policies will be updated as and when required

We have been working to extend the nursery facilities, and will plan towards have the building work completed during the summer break in 2025.

We do expect an Ofsted inspection during the academic work. Whilst this is a stressful time for all involved, we aim to ensure that the standards expected are held, not only for the inspection, but as a norm for our school.

Final Comments

The thanks of all governors go to all the staff members, pupils, and parents for the efforts they make to ensure the school provides an outstanding education for all pupils whilst continuing to improve. The Governing Body are committed to working with the staff to develop the strategic plans for the years ahead in order to progress the school further.

Also, to the support we receive from Durham Governor Services in providing advice, expertise, and clerking functions to help the Governing Board run smoothly.