



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 appointed by the Governing Body. They are individuals 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, and Performance & Pay progression. 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.

2024-2025

During the year the previously reported vacancy within the Governing Body was filled. This has given a full complement of Governors.

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.

Amongst the day-to-day activities of Governors and school staff there was the added expectation of an Ofsted visit. Whilst this was a stressful time for all involved, we aimed to ensure that the standards expected were held, not only for the inspection, but as a norm for our school.

At the end of the Autumn term we welcomed the Ofsted Inspector to the school. It was a pleasure to receive a good report, reflecting the good work of all involved with the school. Our thanks also go to parents who completed the questionnaire and gave such lovely comments

We assessed the needs of our "vulnerable groups" of children. Focused on how the Pupil Premium Grant was spent and what impact this had on their outcomes. We also assessed and changed how our provision for children with SEND was provided with a 'Nuture' focus. The use of the extended 'Butterfly Room' supplemented this.

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 are pleased to report that the school is in a healthy position financially and can afford to maintain the current staffing structure. Due to circumstances outside our control the Nursery Extension was deferred to this coming year.

Various survey results were received to evaluate:

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

2025-2026

A list of our current governors, with any declaration of interests can be viewed on the school website. A summary of Governor activity can be found on the school website. This will be updated throughout the year. Our key strategic functions, as listed at the head of this document will be fundamental to our work.

Already, the Action Plan has been agreed and will direct our actions, along with any unexpected situations. Our School Self Evaluation Plan (SEP) and the School Improvement Plan, arising from the SEP, provides specific key areas to further develop our school. For this year these are formulated from comments within our Ofsted report.

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.

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.

Financially we are in a good position. Along with all schools, due to lower pupil intake and funding allocations, this year will be challenging. Our Finance, Premises & Staffing committee will be monitoring the situation carefully.

School policies will be updated as and when required

We will be working to commence the Nursery extension at the beginning of the 2026 Summer holiday time.

Final Comments

Once again our Governors thank the staff, 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 thanks to the support we receive from Durham Governor Services in providing advice, expertise, and clerking functions to help the Governing Board run smoothly.