

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School To July 2016

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Withycombe Raleigh Primary School's 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 Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School (VC) is made up of sixteen governors:

- Three parent governors
- One staff governor
- One local authority governor
- Three foundation governors (one of whom shall be ex officio)
- One Head Teacher
- Seven co-opted governors

For further information on individual governors, see the '[who's who](#)' page of school website.

We are very fortunate at Withycombe to have a dedicated and experienced group of governors, all with a thorough knowledge of our school through varying roles as parent, staff, volunteer, peripatetic teacher or church representative. Many of our governors work in education, from early years through to university. Our annual skills audit highlights any training required and helps identify what we are looking for in a governor vacancy election. Governors are elected for a term of four years.

The Governing Body has programme of meetings throughout the school year, with Full Governor meetings occurring twice a term. Governors join one of our two committees – Teaching and Learning and Resources - according to their skills and experience. These smaller meetings provide time for discussion, challenge, feedback on monitor visits and policy reviews. Other sub-committees include Pay and Performance and Buildings. Smaller working parties are formed to focus on specific tasks as and when necessary, for example, School Lunches (UIFSM), Pupil Premium and data and assessment. Our Foundation Governors have also formed an Ethos committee, meeting termly with the RE leads.

Attendance record of governors

Our governors have excellent attendance at meetings, ensuring we are always quorate. Attendance for 2015/16 can be found on the table of governors on our [school webpage](#). In addition, governors are required to monitor specific areas of school improvement through regular monitor visits into school which are all recorded. Governors are also encouraged to partake in collective worship, special assemblies and other significant events, trips and classroom visits.

The work we have done on our committees and in the Governing Body meetings

Governor Monitor visit this year concentrated on three key areas:

RE & collective worship, collaboration for outstanding learning, and model for intervention

Within these areas governors focussed on raising standards of teaching and learning, development of

assessment, developing strategies for closing the gap, how we are overcoming the challenges of 'life without levels' as well as looking into our systems in place for supporting safeguarding our pupils.

Teaching & Learning:

We have monitored and reviewed progress for all pupils in the context of the new curriculum and 'assessment without levels', and evaluated the impact of Teaching and Learning objectives in the School Improvement Plan.

Regular opportunities to meet with the leadership team and teachers, to analyse data in different systems including RaiseOnline, GL and Data Dashboard have given governors valuable insight into pupil progress across the school. Pupils achieve successful outcomes, often above national and local standards. Governors have a clear understanding of how pupils are tracked and interventions targeted for all learners. We have evaluated the impact of interventions for gifted and talented learners, those with special educational needs and disabilities, and also for those in receipt of pupil premium.

We have reviewed the spending of the Sports Grant, to support the teaching of and learning in PE.

An Ethos committee of Foundation governors and teaching staff has been established to further enhance the school's distinctive Christian values, collective worship and RE, following the Outstanding judgement in our Church school inspection. Governors have visited collective worship regularly and met with school staff to review work in RE books throughout the school. Participation in School Council meetings and lunch clubs has also given us clear ideas from pupils what they enjoy about collective worship and how they understand our school values.

A focus on English teaching this year has shown what has been improved so far, and considered the impact of teaching and interventions, and of provision for vulnerable groups and gifted and talented writers.

We have monitored the school's policy, procedures and training for Safeguarding, including the Prevent duty. The introduction of the 'CPOMs' system for recording child protection and Safeguarding will further enhance the school's practice.

Running weekly lunch clubs, visiting School Council meetings, supporting special events such as the Acts of Kindness Day and the 150th birthday and royal birthday celebrations have also clearly demonstrated to governors the very high quality of adult-child and child-child relationships that characterise our school.

Resources Committee:

Resources governors continue to focus on ongoing building work and monitor changes to ever decreasing budgets, as well as ensuring the safeguarding of everyone in school, monitoring health and safety and reviewing policies around all of these areas, including personnel.

Sept 2015 saw the new hall floor fully replaced, just in time for the new term, the Year 6 building roof was replaced during the Autumn term, acoustic boards and electronic blinds in the hall were fitted during the spring term. Governors worked with lead staff and PTFA on the The Ark which opened in July and has provided a wonderful addition to our playground and outdoor learning. Under this new initiative 12 students from the Central Devon Academy have been planning, preparing and building the learning and play facility, learning hands-on vocational skills.

Governors continue to work closely with the Head to secure funding for our Phase 2 build, replacing the last mobile classrooms with a single storey four classroom block. This is fantastic news for our school and is the final phase of development providing sufficient purpose-built classrooms for our intake. This build will take place in the early part of 2017 and be ready for September 2017. We have been very well supported by our LA and County Council and Withycombe has had major investment to ensure it continues as an excellent school well into the future.

Our school travel plan was updated and published on the website. DCC agreed funding for a crossing patrol for a further year and recruited an experienced crossing patrol lady. Governors continue to work

with neighbours and parents on monitoring this area, and thank parents for their support. Our school took part in the Sustrans Big Shift in March, which encourages families to walk to school (www.bigshift.sustrans.org.uk). We were one of their top achievers with over 75% of our school travelling actively. Governors also worked with children on school council in this area.

Monitoring Universal Infant Free School Meals whilst promoting uptake of the pupil premium is an ongoing challenge, governors have formed a working party to focus on this area.

Our Pay and Performance sub-committee act on our pay policy, approving pay increases following the appraisal cycle and three governors review the Head Teacher Performance Management annually. Governors are included in the recruitment process and are often represented at interviews.

This work is captured in approved minutes of the Governing Body which are available on the school's website.

Strategic Planning for the future

Current whole school improvement priorities, as identified in our self-evaluation, are detailed below. Governors are assigned to monitor specific areas based on the below targets at the start of each academic year.

- To continue to develop the quality of teaching, learning and assessment through our collaboration model
- To embed the continuity of the new Primary Curriculum
- To further develop a new robust assessment systems based on the ARE and standards for KS1/2 and to embed Tapestry to Foundation
- To develop our intervention model that supports wide ranging needs with a Teach and Learn approach
- To target consistency of progress for low/mid attainment for writing, particularly boys, across the school
- To support continued school growth, remodelling and building works
- To develop our strategic partnerships and collaborative frameworks to ensure continued future success as a large and forward looking school, including our role as a lead church school

Governors will also work on developing ways of collecting the views of parents, staff and children. Governors will develop ways of becoming more transparent in their work, with further information published on the school website and continuing regular newsletters to parents and staff.

Visiting the school allows governors to: see policies in action; increase their understanding of the school, the pupils and their needs; and subsequently ask questions based on first-hand knowledge of the school. Governors adhere to their Code of Conduct and a Governor Monitoring Visits Policy, reviewed annually.

In addition to monitor visits, the named governors below are linked to key areas for 2016/17:

SAFEGUARDING NAMED GOVERNOR:	Sue Humphries
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HEALTH & SAFETY GOVERNOR:	Antonia Burrows
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CHILD IN CARE GOVERNOR:	Jo Wibberley
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SAFER RECRUITMENT/PERSONNEL:	Helen Fenner
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FINANCE	Claire Babbage
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How to contact your Governing Body

Governors can be contacted via letter (through the office), in person whilst at the school, or via email to the clerk to governors: ldempster@wrpschool.org.uk or directly to the Chair acooper@wrpschool.org.uk