

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of St Anne's Fulshaw CE Primary School

July 2017

Claire Carter BA Mus, MBA – Chair of Governors

The governors are appointed and elected to:

- Provide strong links between the school and community it serves
- Maintain the Christian character of our school
- Create and protect the schools vision and ethos
- Utilise a wide experience of the outside world
- Provide an independent and strategic view
- Provide a visible form of accountability for the Headteacher and staff of the school
- Be part of a team focusing on long term development and improvement
- Provide accountability to the community for the use of resources and the standards of teaching and learning in the school
- Provide support for the Headteacher and staff

St Anne's Governing Body

All governors are volunteers, consisting of staff, parents, clergy and members of the wider community. A governor's role is to be strategic, to guide, to challenge, to monitor and support the school and its staff who run the operation of the school day to day.

The Governing Body of St Anne's Fulshaw CE Primary School is made up of 2 Staff Governors (including the Headteacher), 2 Foundation Governors, 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 4 Co-opted Governors. Co-opted Governors are appointed 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.

The full Governing Body meets once each term, or more as required. Occasionally there is a need to call an E (extraordinary) FGB, which we have had to again this year to discuss financial matters. We also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail, these committees report directly to the Full Governing Body. Our Committee structure is as follows:

1. Resources Committee, which focuses on finance, premises and related financial personnel matters
2. Aims and Achievement Committee which focuses on our curriculum and pupils' achievements (both academically and otherwise) and pupils' learning and experience
3. Personnel, Pay and Performance Committee.

We also have committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline, complaints and staffing matters.

In addition to Full Governing Body and Committee membership governors have specific responsibilities in link governor roles. Governors monitor and review the work of the school in specific subject

	<p>areas and responsibilities. For example we have governors who monitor Safeguarding, SEN, Health and Safety, Music, Geography, Numeracy, Literacy and many more. In many cases governors attend specific training courses relating to their subject areas. This last year governors have continued to focus on this role.</p> <p>See our website for a full list of our governors and a short biog. http://www.stannesfulshaw.net/page/governors/2304</p>
<p>Attendance record of governors</p>	<p>Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not “quorate” (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). See attendance detail below.</p>
<p>The work that the school, governors and committees have done.</p>	<p>The Governing Body is responsible for in excess of 60 policies, many of which are statutory (i.e. required by the DfE), many are reviewed annually and the work is divided through our committees in the main. The Governing Body’s role is to review, amend and discuss policies as is required by law and according to the school’s requirements. It also ratifies and records these policies.</p> <p>The Governing Body must keep up to date with the latest and ever changing policies of government at both a national and local level. This can be often challenging for a small Governing Body and school.</p> <p>The Governing Body has supported the head throughout this year and endeavoured to ensure that the pastoral care of our pupils and staff (including the HT) is paramount. This is not always easy in a small, busy school and has been particularly challenging in recent times. Our HT has previously worked as a lead Ofsted inspector and currently is a School Improvement Partner to other schools. We may be a small school but the experience and knowledge we benefit from this as a school is invaluable, ensuring our thinking is current and our ‘ideas bank’ is topped up.</p> <p>Governors and staff spend time together on INSET days to discuss, review and consider our strategy for the coming year and beyond. This is very useful for all and is repeated annually in September. This forms the basis for our Strategic School Development Plan. Data is reviewed, subjects are agreed to become a focus for the year and so on. Governors undergo training throughout the year, and can tailor courses relevant to the work the committees require and the areas of strategic focus for the forthcoming year. This underpins the commitment that all governors make to the school and its pupils.</p> <p>A key point of development for governors during this last year was to be Ofsted inspection ready, as it has been a few years since our last inspection (2012) and we are therefore due a further inspection.</p> <p>Our Governing Body has continued and expanded on its work with the local cluster of schools in the area and continues to explore possible routes towards being an academy. The HT and I join other heads and chairs and discuss these issues regularly. Parents will have the opportunity to comment if and when we make any decision to pursue such an opportunity. The discussions have been interesting indeed and such collaboration and discussion with other schools always useful</p>

and sometimes rather enlightening.

To prove that governors practice what they preach, our governing body supported by fundraising through the PTA and corporate sponsorship, commissioned a new build Resource Room and Library Room to be built in the playground. This time last year I reported with crossed fingers that building work was due to start as soon as school closed for the summer. It did and it worked. Although governors do not get involved with day to day operational matters, this special project has been project managed from inception by the Governing Body. We are very grateful to the PTA, our donors and fundraisers that have made this dream a reality.

The Governing Body has worked hard as a group devoting their many and varied skills and, most of all, valuable time. As Chair I would like to thank them all for their continued support of St Anne's.

Our Committees

The **Aims and Achievements Committee** reviews a large number of policies including those relating to safeguarding and vulnerable children. It reviews the work of the HT and staff with regard to all areas of the curriculum, school data, SATs results and progress data, safeguarding and child protection to name a few. St Anne's puts our children and their well being and safeguarding as the utmost priority ensuring that staff and governors are trained and our internal processes are reviewed regularly.

The **Resources Committee** reviews all finance and premises building matters. The HT and Chair and LA Budget Officer meet three times per year to set, review and plan the school's budget given the funds provided by government. The last meeting was attended by all members of the committee as Finance was a 'hot topic' and the effect of increased costs causing us some difficulty in setting our budgets. One of the main priorities for this committee this past year has been to try to maintain the staffing level in our school as we have a high requirement for support staff. We have, I am glad to report, been supported by the LA SEN Team to this end. The HT and I also met with the LA Director of Children's Services a while back to ask for advice and her support.

Our **Personnel, Pay and Performance Committee** monitors many policies and pay arrangements, staffing structure and much more. We have been able to maintain staffing levels to support our children this year, and into the next. We have rare movement for the coming year with two new teachers joining our staff. A panel of governors also conducts the Head Teacher's Performance Appraisal.

Part One Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents – you can either find them on the Governors' page of our website or you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings. Minutes are published the following term after the meeting.

<p>Challenges faced by our Governing Body over the past year.</p>	<p>Our focus is to give children the best start in life and resources which we spend on children at the earliest possible time in their lives sets them up for success in the future. One of the biggest challenges we have faced this year are finances, more than ever. We are a small school and meet the needs of our community admirably. Increasing costs and our wish to do the very best for our children come at a price. Discussions in meetings can be tricky, difficult conversations are hard but we need to ensure we are doing our best with the available resources. I'll admit that I have had sleepless nights wondering what can be done. I have learnt however, not to be hasty or panic, be methodical and measured and seek advice and invite discussions with the LA and all governors. Work with the LA budget team and keep calm and carry on. Things do and have worked out in the end.</p> <p>As a governor I have to regularly reassess what my role is; it's not just the business, we are not running a company here we are the custodians of children's futures and they are our first priority.</p> <p>Our staff go to great lengths to ensure the pressures and stresses exerted on them do not trickle down to our children, for example during Year 2 statutory testing week, the children perceived simply that they 'have a quiz today'. This approach is proven to be successful. As a school governor and a parent I am very aware of the effect of this on our staff and am as ever in awe of their true dedication. As governors we need to support our staff.</p> <p>The proposed National Funding Formula has been a big topic in education and in general. Our area, Cheshire East, is one of the lowest funded in the country and the proposed new formula makes this worse. Our LA did a lot of work to educate and assist school leaders to voice our concerns at a government level. Our school was particularly vocal and communicated widely with parents and the wider community. I am very proud and supportive of these efforts. It is in my view important that we have a voice and I have been involved as a governor and a parent.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ofsted are overdue and the imminent inspection is looming large for both staff and governors. 2. Continue to build on relationships with local schools, ensuring the best outcomes for our children at all times. 3. Keep a close eye on our budget and future funding for schools including the NFF. 4. Pursue further funding from additional sources to support our unique school and its children.
<p>How you can contact the Governing Body</p>	<p>If you have any suggestions as to how the Governing Body can strategically improve our school please feel free to contact us. We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Claire Carter via the school office, governors' e-mail or in the playground at pick up or drop off.</p>

St Anne's Fulshaw CE Primary School Governing Body

Governor	Category	Term of current office expiry
Claire Carter (Chair of Governors, Chair of Resources Committee, Clerk PPP Committee)	Parent Governor	2021
Nicky Cathery (Vice Chair, Chair of PPP Committee)	Co-opted Governor	2020
Daniel Baker (Clerk Finance Committee)	Parent Governor	2018
Katie Davies	Co-opted Governor	2018
Anne Baker (Clerk A&A)	Foundation Governor	2020
Maxine Drabble (Clerk A & A Summer term)	LA Governor	2018
Rev Paul Smith	Ex-Officio Governor	N/A
Natalie Lloyd (Chair A&A)	Co-opted Governor	2018
Wendy Clark	Staff Governor	2020
Clare Daniel	Staff Governor	N/A
Jonathan Vose	Co-opted Governor	2020

ST Anne's Fulshaw CE Primary School Governors' Attendance Record for 2016/2017

Governor	Full Governing Body	Resources Committee (merged Premises Finance)	Aims & Achievement	Personnel, Pay & Performance
Claire Carter	100%	100%	100% (CPD)	100%
Nicky Cathery	67%	N/A	N/A	100%
Daniel Baker	100%	100%	N/A	N/A
Katie Davis	67%	N/A	100%	100%
Anne Baker	100%	N/A	100%	N/A
Maxine Drabble	100%	100%	100%	N/A
Rev Laura Rhodes / Rev Paul Smith	67%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Natalie Lloyd	100%	N/A	100%	N/A
Wendy Clark	100%	100%	N/A	100%
Clare Daniel	100%	100%	100%	100%
Jonathan Vose	100%	100%	N/A	N/A