

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

July 2020

Claire Carter BA Mus, MBA – Chair of Governors

The Governors are appointed and elected to:

Create and protect the school's vision and ethos
Provide an independent and Strategic view
Be part of a team focusing on long term development and improvement
Provide a visible form of accountability for the headteacher and staff of the school
Maintain the Christian Character of the school
Ensure links to the community we serve and the wider community
Support the school, the Head and staff
Know our school
Put the Children FIRST

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 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 (extraordinary) FGB. 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 at school.
3. Personnel, Pay and Performance Committee.

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

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

	<p>training courses relating to their subject areas. It's important for governors to stay up to date and current, it seems that education is constantly evolving. Regulations, the DfE, Ofsted etc... are moving objects and governors need to ensure they are not left behind.</p> <p>See our website for a full list of our governors and a short biog. http://www.stannesfulshaw.net/page/governors/2304</p>
Attendance record of governors	<p>Governors have generally 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>
The work that the school, governors and committees have done.	<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 often be challenging for a small governing body and school.</p> <p>These last few months governors have had to carry on their work in fact it has been more important than ever. Government guidelines and documents have been issued throughout this Covid –19 pandemic. In fact, I believe the leadership of the school has read a lifetime's worth of government issues and updates in a very short space of time which has required action, often immediate. All governing bodies have critical incident and disaster plans and whilst we often have to consider the unthinkable, these times have truly been a challenge and one we hope never to repeat once we are through it all.</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 year this work will continue although at different times and in different ways.</p> <p>Governors undergo training throughout the year, and can select courses relevant to the work their 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. At this recent time this training as moved online more than ever and this could be a positive that's come out of Covid, enabling new governors to manage their time, families and work life.</p> <p><u>Our Committees</u></p> <p>The Aims and Achievements Committee reviews a large number of policies including those relating to safeguarding and vulnerable children. These have required immediate Covid updates throughout these recent months.</p> <p>It reviews the work of the HT and staff with regard to all areas of the</p>

	<p>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 at the utmost priority ensuring that staff and governors are trained and our internal processes are reviewed regularly.</p> <p>The Resources Committee reviews all finance and premises 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. Finances are tighter and tighter each year and the committees work is increasingly made more difficult.</p> <p>Recent times have put a considerable strain on our already struggling school finances. LA SEN department suspended some of their work on issuing new plans when Covid hit us and this in turn has meant that our expected income has not been forthcoming. This will remain a challenge for our school as we start to recover in the new academic year.</p> <p>Our Personnel, Pay and Performance Committee monitors many policies and pay arrangements, staffing structure and much more. A panel of governors also conducts the Head Teacher's performance Appraisal.</p> <p>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>
<p>Challenges faced by our Governing Body over the past year.</p>	<p>Schools have faced the huge challenge of closing to the majority of pupils, whilst also the challenge of maintaining the keyworker provision for those who needed to use it. As a school community we have been touched by Covid-19 personally within the staff, parents and families. This has been both a matter of huge concern for our community and of course our governing body. Our focus as governors has been to ensure the well-being of our community and to ensure that we work within the guidelines as set out by government in an ever-changing set of circumstances.</p> <p>Our school staff have been faced with a change to how they work literally over-night whilst managing their own health and families. It's been very difficult and my colleagues and I thank them for their dedication.</p> <p>As chair I thank all the governors for their work, online meetings and many guidelines read, extra meetings often a short notice. Not easy to manage at the best of times and this has been the worst of times. I would also like to thank my colleagues for the support they have shown me and all the staff at this time.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focus on recovery for all in our community. It's time to return to school to operate business as usual, or at least as near as we can, whilst also giving each child and staff member what they need, be it extra help or support, academically or otherwise.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Whilst we have spent many years now discussing the MAT (Multi Academy Trust) question with neighbouring schools, in the months before Covid halted this work we were as a group embarking on considering some alternatives. The question of whether some of us should in fact federate or indeed remain LA maintained schools as we are currently. One could argue that many schools have formed such a positive working relationship and are truly collaborating, we have already formed a soft federation. The LA have been very supportive, decisive and helpful through this time of a pandemic. These discussions and more will restart in time and we will of course keep you informed of governors' decisions. 3. Resources – Monitor our finances with extreme care and support our children and staff as much as we can. We hope that we can work closely with the LA regarding our budget and SEN income to ensure recovery. We also await further news on the governments announcements regarding additional funds to support curriculum additional support. To date we have no such detail, which makes planning very difficult. 4. Recruit new governors from our parent community with the appropriate skills.
<p>How you can contact the Governing Body</p>	<p>If you would like to discuss joining our governing body feel free to get in touch for an informal discussion. We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Claire Carter via the school office or governors' e-mail. governors@stannesfulshaw.net</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
Vicky Wilson (Resources Committee)	Co-opted Governor	2023
Daniel Baker (Clerk Finance Committee)	Parent Governor	2020
Richard Mathews (PPP Committee)	Co-opted Governor	2023
Anne Baker (Clerk A&A)	Foundation Governor	2020
Maxinne Drabble (Vice Chair, Clerk A & A)	LA Governor	2020
Rev Caroline Throup	Ex-Officio Governor	2023
Natalie Lloyd (Chair A&A)	Co-opted Governor	2023
Wendy Clark	Staff Governor	2024
Clare Daniel	Staff Governor	
Jonathan Vose	Co-opted Governor	2024

ST Anne's Fulshaw CE Primary School Governors' Attendance Record for 2019/2020

Governor	Full Governing Body	Resources Committee	Aims & Achievement	Personnel, Pay & Performance
Claire Carter	100%	100%	33% (not a member, Covid)	100%
Vicky Wilson				
Daniel Baker				
Richard Mathews				
Anne Baker				
Maxinne Drabble				
R Caroline Throup				
Natalie Lloyd				
Wendy Clark				
Clare Daniel				
Jonathan Vose				