

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

July 2021

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. We currently have vacancies, please contact governors@stannesfulshaw.net to find out more.

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.

	<p>This past academic year has probably been the toughest year in education in living memory. As a chair I have seen the pain and anguish that closing schools (to most children) and moving in a moment's notice to online learning and the toll this has taken on our staff. I am also in awe of their dedication to our children and immensely proud of their work.</p> <p>In addition, I am very proud of how our children have adapted and managed and returned to school so positively. A big thanks to our parents who have supported their children admirably in this most difficult of times.</p> <p>As a governor I will admit that I am concerned about the toll the effects of this pandemic will continue to have on us all into the next academic year. We will all do our best to pass on those values and resilience to our community and pray that these difficult times will pass soon.</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 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>
<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 role of governor has certainly not diminished this last year in fact as you may imagine we have had to find new ways of working and has had to be able to carry on with our regular statutory duties as well as keep abreast of the many and ever-changing updates from government. Governors have had to find ways to support the school differently and more remotely than we would like.</p> <p>Governors and staff usually 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. Governors remain committed to mirroring some of the staff training in many areas, in particular, safeguarding.</p>

Our committees

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.

The committee reviews the work of the HT and staff at a strategic level with regard to all areas of the curriculum, school data, SATS results and progress data, safeguarding and child protection to name a few. There have now been 2 years where there have been no statutory assessments in place. Our school however is using a very effective monitoring tool so teachers and governors more widely can see where our children are succeeding and use this data to feed our improvement strategies and focus for forthcoming years.

The **Resources Committee** reviews all finance and premises matters. The HT, Committee 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. School budgets are extremely difficult to balance and the additional Covid expenses alongside a loss of income in some areas feels like quite an uphill battle.

Last year I reported that the effect of early Lockdown on the LA SEN department had caused a considerable backlog and in turn had a considerable impact on our budget, this has continued and remains a challenge. Our school and governors are committed to ensuring our children are supported first and foremost and we work to this end always.

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.

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.

Challenges faced by our Governing Body over the past year.

1. Supporting our school remotely has been harder than expected. As a governing body we have always been used to actively participating in school life and speaking to our staff and parents in person. Along with the additional workload we have add to work online in all aspects. Meetings and training courses, sessions with the diocese and LA have all become remote.
2. Finances have and continue to be difficult, the increasing costs and decreasing income has impacted our school. As a maintained LA school we continue to work with the LA Finance team to find solutions and ensure our children come first.
3. Covid risks – The school and governors have a responsibility to

	<p>ensure the environment our community studies in and works in is safe for all. Covid and the limitations of a school where mitigations such as social distancing are not possible has made this particularly challenging. Positive cases within schools have risen considerably in this past half term with the Delta Variant taking hold in our community and this continues to cause grave concern for governors as we do our best to manage the guidelines as set by the DfE and the LA.</p> <p>4. Staff well-being – The expectation and pressures of work on our school staff have been considerable over this last academic year and look set to continue. It can be a difficult balancing act to ensure our statutory duties are performed as governors whilst trying to do the little we can to ensure the wellbeing of our staff. We will continue to do what we can to this end.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue our focus on recovery for all. Student and staff well-being remains a high priority. 2. Last autumn governors decided to put a hold on any MAT discussions and focus on our school recovery, its pupils and staff. This has been a hugely difficult time for schools and it was important to governors that we did not spend time on matters which are currently not a high priority. Governors will be able to review this in the next academic year. 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. 4. Recruit new governors from our 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 of PPP and Resources Committees)	LA Governor	2025
Vicky Wilson (Vice Chair of Governors, Chair of Resources Committee)	Parent Governor	2025
Daniel Baker	Parent Governor	2020 Left 2020
Richard Mathews (Chair of PPP Committee)	Parent Governor	2025
Anne Baker	Foundation Governor	2020 Left 2020
Maxine Drabble	LA Governor	2020 Left 2021
Rev Caroline Throup (Clerk of AA Committee)	Ex-Officio Governor	2023
Natalie Lloyd (Chair of AA Committee)	Co-opted Governor	2023
Wendy Clark	Staff Governor	2024
Clare Daniel	Staff Governor	
Jonathan Vose	Co-opted Governor	2024 Left 2020
Mahbub Zamen	Co-opted Governor	2025 new governor May 2021

ST Anne's Fulshaw CE Primary School Governors' Attendance Record for 2020-21

Governor	Full Governing Body	Resources Committee	Aims & Achievement	Personnel, Pay & Performance
Claire Carter	100%	100%	66% (not a member, Covid)	100%
Vicky Wilson	100%	100% (Committee chair)		
Richard Mathews	100%			100% (Committee Chair)
Maxine Drabble	33%	33%	33%	
R Caroline Throup	66%		66%	
Natalie Lloyd	100%		100% (Committee chair)	
Wendy Clark	100%	100%		100%
Clare Daniel	100%	100%	100%	100%
Mahbub Zamen (New)	33%	N/A	N/A	N/A