



## Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of William Levick Primary School July 2015

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of William Levick Primary School's School 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 William Levick Primary School was reconstituted in September 2015 and is now made up of:

List your constitution - <http://williamlevick.derbyshire.sch.uk/whos-who/governors.php>

*The role of the Governing Body is to support the School's Senior Leadership team in the development and implementation of a clear strategic direction for the School, with clearly defined aims, objectives and policies, in the areas of Curriculum and Standards (teaching, learning and assessment) and Resource Management (financial management).*

*Governors with the appropriate skills and experience sit on their allocated Committees and Full Governing Body meetings termly, to provide effective challenge and support to the Senior Leaders in the School. This helps to ensure the clearly defined aims and objectives agreed at the beginning of the School Academic Year are being met.*

*The School Improvement Plan details the School's aims and objectives in each area and how they are to be delivered across the School, in line with government standards and targets.*

*The Plan referred to above, details the measurable success criteria against each action, providing the main focus for assessment and review termly, to ensure targets are on track and that all children are making the required levels of progression.*

*As detailed above, the Governing Body has a termly programme of meetings throughout the School Academic Year, and a committee structure that focuses on specific areas of governance. This helps to deliver robust governance and ensures effective leadership and management across the School.*

### **Attendance record of governors**

*A record is kept by the clerk to the governing body, of governors attendance at meetings, details of attendance can be found at the bottom of the page <http://williamlevick.derbyshire.sch.uk/whos-who/governors.php>*

*Meetings need to be 'quorate' to ensure that decisions can be made.*

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

*William Levick Primary School had an Ofsted Inspection on 5 February 2014, followed by a Monitoring Inspection visit undertaken by a HMI on 4 April 2014. <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/112541>*

*The above have focused the Governing Body and School Senior Leaders over the past 22 months in the areas across the School that required further improvement.*

*The Curriculum and Standards and Resources Committees were allocated areas to focus on, within their specific roles and responsibilities, to ensure the School Improvement Action Plan, was effectively detailed and was robustly assessed and reviewed regularly, with School Senior Leaders.*

*As a Governing Body we had to recruit a new School Headteacher, in time for the beginning of the new Academic Year, in September 2015, with the current Headteacher Mrs Grantham, moving on to a Sheffield School.*

*Mr Winson was appointed to start as the new Headteacher on 1 September 2015. However, as a Governing Body we ensured an effective induction and handover in June / July, to assist with a smooth transition.*

*The Governing Body have been delighted with the progress that Mr Winson has made in the Autumn term and how well the other Senior School Leaders, teachers, teaching assistants and other staff have responded and supported him in his new post.*

As can be seen from the recent School data around pupil attainment and progress on the website <http://williamlevick.derbyshire.sch.uk/data-and-reports/school-outcomes.php> improvements are clearly evident in all areas of the School and the Governing Body are pleased with the progress being made.

However, as a Governing Body, together with Senior School Leaders, we are committed to moving the School through 'Good' to an 'Outstanding' Ofsted category over the next 5 years.

Approved minutes of Governing Body meetings are available on the website – <http://williamlevick.derbyshire.sch.uk/whos-who/governors.php>

### **Strategic Planning for the future**

*The School's vision is to 'Encourage pupils to have a love for life, an understanding of people and a desire for learning. A School where the well-being of children is at the heart of learning. A School which is fully inclusive and which focuses on raising the attainment and achievement of all its pupils'.*

*Our strategic planning is focused on delivering the above vision by:*

- *Working collaboratively in partnership with other schools and the Derbyshire Education Authority, to share and develop best practice in teaching learning and assessment, to ensure the School is meeting and exceeding government standards and targets.*
- *Valuing the involvement and contribution that parents, carers and extended families make to their children's learning and development and the wider community.*
- *Prioritising School financial resources by achieving value for money in our purchasing and allocating funds in the appropriate areas in our School Improvement Plan, to support the achievement of our aims and objectives and targets.*

### **Teaching, Learning and Assessment:**

*In the area of teaching, learning and assessment, our planning is focused on further improvements in our current good standards of teaching across the school. This will be achieved via regular lesson observations from the School Senior Leaders and pupil's book scrutiny, ensuring consistency of marking and feedback.*

*We will continue to embed the new Pupil Tracking and Assessment System, giving parents and carers the opportunity to track their children's progress and help support in their learning and development where appropriate. The system enables teaching staff to effectively assess their children against the National Curriculum, to help identify gaps in learning, to assist in planning to raise attainment for all children.*

*Teaching of Maths will continue to be a School priority, to raise standards further by increasing the percentage of children achieving in each year group, the 'expected' standard in the New Curriculum.*

*We also have a priority to further enhance the provision for children who are exceeding expectations, in each year group, by developing a mastery curriculum. It is expected that children will reach the mastery curriculum later in the year, as we are yet to determine exactly where children sit against the new National Curriculum. This is due to the introduction of a new assessment system at the beginning of the year and therefore a new baseline being produced.*

*Priority remains on personal development, behaviour and welfare and a number of School policies have and are being reviewed, amended where necessary to comply and conform to new guidelines and changes in legislation.*

*Reading will continue to be a School priority, with greater emphasis being given to engaging children in reading, as a key foundation stone in their learning and development, while further encouraging parents and carers to support.*

#### **Resource Management:**

*Schools in England and Wales have had standstill budgets for over eight years, resulting in schools having to make efficiencies to fund increases in inflation for salaries and purchasing of goods and services, as well as pension costs.*

*This is putting schools under significant financial pressure and many schools now have deficit budgets, where they are required by their respective Local Education Authority to submit a 4 year financial plan, to ensure their School budgets balance by the end of this period.*

*At William Levick Primary School we are in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of a 4 year deficit reduction plan and have been working hard to increase the funding / income coming into the school with additional pupil numbers and income from letting our premises and facilities, while also looking to reduce our expenditure by being more efficient in all areas.*

*The resourcing strategy will remain focused on identifying ways to increase funding / income while reducing expenditure, while ensuring funds remain available to deliver our Schools aims and objectives through the School Improvement Plan, in the delivery of our School vision.*

#### **Effective Leadership, Management and Governance:**

*The strategy in the area of School leadership and management will remain focused on creating a culture that enables children and staff to excel and where there is a commitment to setting high expectations for the conduct of children and staff and where relationships between staff and children are excellent.*

*School Senior Leaders and Governors will focus consistently on improving outcomes for all children, including the most disadvantaged children.*

*Governors will continue to systematically challenge the School's Senior Leaders to ensure effective allocation of staff and resources, including pupil premium, sports premium and SEN funding, to secure excellent outcomes for all children.*

*We will remain focused on clear and effective two way communication with children, parents / carers and staff, to support continuous performance improvements, by focusing on the impact of our actions taken in key areas.*

*School Senior Leaders and Governors will use effective performance management that leads to professional development that encourages, challenges and supports teachers' continuous improvement, ensuring teaching is highly effective across the School.*

*The School leadership and management culture will encourage staff to reflect on and debate the way they teach, to ensure best practice is shared and that staff feel involved in their own professional development. Non-teaching staff will also be encouraged to contribute their ideas and experience and feel involved in the effective running of the school.*

*School Senior Leaders and Governors will ensure childrens' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and, within this, the promotion of fundamental British values, are at the heart of the School's work.*

*We will ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, with clear continuity and progression, which inspires children to learn and that the range of subjects helps children acquire knowledge, understanding and skills in all aspects of their education.*

*School Senior Leaders and Governors will ensure Safeguarding is effective, with a culture of vigilance where childrens' welfare is actively promoted and that children feel listened to and safe.*

**Communication:**

*School Senior Leaders and Governors communication strategy will continue to ensure communication is open and effective with children, parents / carers and staff and that levels of engagement are strong.*

*We will continue with the publication of the Governor Newsletter, to help keep parents and carers informed of news and developments across the school.*

*How well we are communicating will be assessed and reviewed by the use of periodic surveys, with feedback listened to and acted upon, to ensure continuous improvement in this important area.*

**How to contact your governing body**

*Information about the school's governing body is available on the governors' page of the school's website together with the following email address to contact Governors – [chairofgovernors1@williamlevick.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:chairofgovernors1@williamlevick.derbyshire.sch.uk).*

