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Headteacher: Miss Zoe Loosemore

13<sup>h</sup> July 2021

## Annual Statement of Governance from the Governors of Hiltingbury Junior School 2020/21

Welcome to our Annual Statement of Governance. Its purpose is to share key aspects we have been working on as a Governing Body this year and our areas of focus going forward.

As a governing body we are responsible for strategic oversight of the school with day-to-day decisioning making and operational matters managed by the headteacher. Specifically, our responsibilities can be summarised by three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent.

### Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

The school has operated this year under the continuing Covid19 pandemic guidelines. Significant work has taken place to ensure the effective education of all our children has been able to continue whatever rules and restrictions have been in place. Governors have also worked closely with the leadership team to identify and agree areas for focus and priority in the future. This is ensuring, that despite the pandemic, school does not stand still but continues to move forward on a journey of continuous reflection and improvement.

### Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff

The end of year external SATs exams have again been cancelled due to Covid19. However, as governors we continue to monitor the academic progress all groups of children make on a termly basis and our evidence from this demonstrates that the high standards we expect at Hiltingbury continue. We introduced new cohort governor roles this year to provide year leaders with the opportunity to discuss the profile of the children, their needs, and the curriculum with a specific person on the governing board. This in turn will enhance our ability to both support and hold the school to account.

Safeguarding has remained at the forefront of governor work. The implications of Covid19 have understandably been a key factor but the school has also made significant progress in other areas such as e-safety. Our focused safeguarding governor visits have seen a strong safeguarding culture in place with the whole school team consistently displaying a high level of understanding of safeguarding and consideration of the changing needs of our children and their families. Their dedication to the whole school community has been incredible throughout this year.



**Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent.**

Our Finance and Resources Committee continues to maintain careful oversight of the school budget. This is in a strong, balanced position and our focus continues to be ensuring money is spent in the areas that have the most positive and direct impact on all our children.

**Future plans for the Governing Body**

As we move towards the lifting of Covid19 restrictions, we look forward to once again being able to physically visit the school and to restart some of our usual activities including the parent survey and attendance at school events. On a personal note, my time as governor and chair will be ending in September. I have been a governor here since 2015 and at the infant school for 5 years before that. It has been my privilege to work with some amazing people along the way and to be part of such a special school community. Both the school and governing body are in a strong position as we work through a smooth handover of my role.

The governing board would again like to express its thanks to the whole school community for its continuing support this year. Specific gratitude goes to Miss Loosemore and the whole staff team for all that they do in making Hiltingbury Junior School the special place that it is and ensuring our children are safe, happy and learning effectively.

**How to contact us**

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and all other local stakeholders – Please contact the Chair of Governors, Judith Rutherford, via the school office.



Judith Rutherford, Chair of Governors