

Annual Statement of Governance from the Governors of Hiltingbury Junior School 2021/22

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.

Our legal responsibilities as a governing body remain the same and they 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

Having gone through a difficult time in everyone lives with Covid, it was important to the school to review the vision and ethos. Prior to Covid the school had seen changes in its leadership and it was felt essential to gain feedback from all the schools stakeholders on where the school needed to focus. Feedback was gained from the pupils using internal surveys and parents and carers where also asked their opinions. This led to the schools 'You said... Our response' commitment. The survey has helped shape the school's improvement plans, which have been measured this year and ongoing. Look out for future engagement activities in the next year.

The schools vision links to the community values, which are focused on within the academic year. It is lovely to see the bright colourful walls built by the children developing their thoughts on the values.

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

As governors we monitor the academic progress all groups of children make on a termly basis through reviewing the school data. This year reading became a key area of focus, and investment was made into whole class texts and staff development in leading a new reading curriculum across the school. The results of this can be seen already through the schools' data and it is also a long-term investment for each new cohort.

After the Covid disruption, we have recently seen the return of the key stage 2 SAT examinations for our Year 6 children. We are extremely pleased to report that the percentage of children, who reached the expected standard has returned to its pre-covid extremely high level, and whilst National averages decrease, Hiltingbury results show the whole school ethos on education remains strong despite the Covid disruption.

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

We have a dedicated Finance and Resources Committee which maintains detailed oversight of the school budget. Balancing the budget in the education sector continues to be a challenge and some of the difficult decisions we made in the past continue to ensure our school remains financially sound. 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

We have welcomed new parent, staff and co-opted governors to our board this year, which has strengthened our mix of skills and experience. A whole governing body action plan with measurable impact is being rolled out and we are considering the best way for our governors to interact with the school going forward. Together with the leadership team we are also looking at strategic priorities for next year, building further on the success of our school and ensuring our children continue to benefit from the absolute best educational experience.

To end this statement, I would like to pay tribute to all the school staff, who have maintained a level of education for the children through all the trials that Covid has thrown at us. It is easy to forget that the staff at the school were also impacted by Covid, however the school has managed to remain focused on the children, even with the constraints placed on them. I would like to extend the thanks of the Governors to all staff, volunteers, parents and carers for the efforts that they have made during this stressful period. Now with the future looking 'brighter', it has been good to see the school able to return to developing the school community links. With access to the school returned, events like sports days, parent's evenings, quizzes to name a few, along with performances from our orchestra and a wonderful Y6 production have seen a community response, post Covid, which is so appreciated by all. I know the whole school is committed to continuing and improving the school's community ties.

How to contact us

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

Richard Veal, Chair of Governors on behalf of the Hiltingbury Junior School Governing Body