

Hingham Primary School Governor Impact Statement 2022-2023

Introduction

This year at Hingham Primary School, the governors have continued to work closely with the Headteacher, the leadership team and the staff to deliver our shared vision of **Nurture, Learn, Achieve for all children**.

We, like all schools across the country, are still working with the residue of the COVID 19 outbreaks and the pressures that it has brought to bear on children, parents and staff. As Governors we have continued to provide the very best support to the school through these continued difficulties and we have worked with the Headteacher and all the staff to support but also importantly, provide challenge to the school.

Hingham Primary school continues to be fully committed to providing the best primary school experience for our children, to ensure they learn and make progress to the best of their individual abilities and to keep them safe and secure. Our school has faced the continued national challenges caused by the Covid pandemic and the teachers, leaders, parents, and children have risen to these challenges which has meant the school has continued to drive forward in all aspects of its work. Throughout the national difficulties that all schools still face we have been able to give all our children the full Hingham experience and we have continued to provide a safe, happy, and secure environment for our children to learn, develop, play, and enjoy their school life.

Role of the Governing Board

The Governing Board has three core 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 for the safeguarding of all.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

The Governing Board at Hingham Primary School is committed to working with the school to ensure all the above functions are being delivered to the highest possible standard.

Constitution

Currently the constitution of our Governing Board allows for 1 staff governor, 1 LA governor, up to 4 elected parent governors and up to 6 Co-opted governors plus the Headteacher. The Deputy HT attends all meetings but has no voting power unless deputising for the Head Teacher

We have welcomed this year 1 new parent governor and are currently recruiting as we had 1 co-opted Governor leave due to work commitments.

The school continues to buy in Professional Clerking Services from the LA and the clerk takes thorough minutes at all Full Governing Board meetings and provides professional guidance on a variety of governance matters. This ensures we are compliant in all matters and offers us access to important support. Through the LA Professional development centre we are able as Governors to access all the statutory training required of us and through VNET we can also access extra training we feel is appropriate for our roles.

Last year 21/22 the bold decision was taken to scrap the two sub-committees and have them combined into the full governing Board. This has worked extremely well and has enabled all governors to take a broader involvement in important decisions relating to the school and given all members of the board an opportunity to have in depth knowledge about all aspects of governance first-hand. Each Governor also has individual responsibilities for statutory areas of the school, for example, Finance, Safeguarding, Health and Safety. This has continued to be very successful throughout 2021– 2022 and will continue in this format. We of course have governors with specific areas of responsibility e.g. Finance, Safeguarding, SEN, Health and safety, Attendance, Curriculum and SEN. These governors then report back at Full board meetings. Governors also go into school for learning walks, book looks and discussions with pupils.

Vision, Ethos & Strategic Direction

The governors work with the HT and staff to develop and monitor our school Vision. Please see our Vision statement <https://www.hinghamprimary.org.uk/visions-and-ethos/>

One way of ensuring that our Vision & Ethos is implemented is through the School Improvement and Development Plan (SIDP). Governors work co-operatively with the Headteacher to contribute to and monitor the SIDP, so it is the focus of all we do. In the last school year, the school has focussed on some of the following objectives:

- Further developing the phonics scheme, the accelerated reading scheme, and writing.
- Continue to develop responses to findings from baseline assessments.
- Identify various cohorts across the school and implementing any Catch-up support required.
- Further developing the teaching of early phonics and reading.
- Ensuring good or better progress for the most/least able.

To monitor if these objectives have been met, clear and measurable targets were set and monitored throughout the year with clear feedback/ evidence from the various staff and Head Teacher.

Governor Visits and Monitoring

Governors visit the school as part of monitoring of the SIDP. Feedback on all visits is given at the Full Governing Board meetings with opportunity for all members of the board to ask questions or challenge evidence.

The annual monitoring plan as set out in the Impact report of 2021 – 2022, is fully in place and working well. This has enabled the governing Board to formalise and track monitoring more carefully. Having a planned monitoring schedule helps ensure we are carrying out all our statutory monitoring duties plus focussing on areas highlighted in our Improvement and Development Plan.

As we move into a new academic year, we will continue to work hard to ensure that monitoring will continue to happen robustly across all aspects of the school.

The Chair of Governors will continue to meet weekly with the Headteacher. Governors with responsibilities such as SEN, Pupil Premium, Safeguarding, Attendance, Finance, and specific subject areas will also continue to meet with staff leaders to provide discussion and challenge on all aspects of the school.

Governor visits this year have included:

- Pupil Premium meetings
- Subject Monitoring
- SEND meetings
- Forest Schools
- Finance meetings
- Monitoring pupil feedback
- Health and Safety
- Attendance

Governors regularly attend training to allow us to keep up to date with our responsibilities with regards to legal requirements and responsibilities, expectations, and Best Practice.

Recent training has included:

- Governor Induction
- Online Safety
- Safeguarding children in education
- Health & Safety
- Pupil premium & vulnerable groups
- Prevent training
- Benchmarking
- Finance

Data Analysis

Governors are regularly provided with key anonymised data on pupil attainment and progress. This is discussed and challenged at Full board meetings and with individual staff. Governors, the Head Teacher, and staff consistently work together to effect change and monitor attainment and progress levels in all aspects of the school.

Governors work with the Head Teacher and all staff to understand the different aspects of assessment and data .and how different groups of children cannot be purely assessed by data alone but require the whole story behind every individual child.

The Governing Board continues to take a more proactive and forensic approach to monitoring and analysing data, and Governors held a targeted training morning on understanding SEN Data and support across the school.

Policies

Policies are monitored, updated, and reviewed on an ongoing basis by governors and are discussed at Full Board meetings with questions asked and challenge provided by the Governors.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains of paramount concern and importance to all governors and staff. We have a nominated governor for Safeguarding and Safeguarding is an agenda item at every Full Governing Board Meeting.

GDPR & Data Protection

The school and governors continue to work ensuring the school complies with GDPR legislation and this is discussed and reported on regularly at Full Governing Board Meetings.

Personnel, Premises & Finance

Our Finance Governor meets the Finance officer and Head Teacher on a regular basis to monitor the budget and finances. The impact is to ensure that the school's funding is put to good use. Finance related visits by governors this year have included:

- Pupil premium spend monitoring
- PE premium budget monitoring
- Attending Budget Revisions
- Ensuring the PE premium is being used correctly
- Attending meetings with the head teacher to discuss options on how we would like to modernise and extend the school facilities
- Ensuring an active premises plan is in place
- Ensuring all Health and Safety legislation is followed

The Board is also responsible for ensuring there are adequate and effective controls for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption. They also ensure there are sound financial management practices within the school and that there is compliance with Norfolk's Scheme for Financing Schools.

Staffing

Over the last year governors and external support personnel have reviewed the Headteacher's performance to monitor and challenge targets to ensure school improvement.

Once again, we have seen some changes in staffing this year and Governors have been involved in appointments and reported to the Full Board meetings

Maintaining secure and effective teaching and support for the children in all aspects of their schooling remains a key focus for governors

Governors will continue to work with the school to ensure staff and resources are deployed in the most productive manner to support children's learning, well-being, and safety.

The governors would like to thank the Head Teacher and all the staff for their outstanding dedication, team spirit, commitment, and outstanding hard work over what has continued to have been a challenging year due to the added pressures of the aftermath and challenges of the Pandemic.

Thanks also go to our amazing team of office staff who go above and beyond in their role to support the children and the school.

The Governing Board continues to work with the Local Authority as we remain an LA school.

Finance

Governors and staff have worked hard to manage the budget during times of budget cuts and reduced SEND funding and we continue to work with the LA to make sure we receive as much support financially as we can get.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our Parents/Carers for their support throughout the year and to ask them to continue to support our fantastic Friends of Hingham School wherever possible. The money raised by the Friends is crucial to allow the children to experience school trips and other important things such as projects, renewal of learning resources, author visits and many more aspects of school life.

As mentioned above, the changes with SEND funding have proved challenging again this year. Governors have continued to support the allocation of time to the SENCO to ensure that they can write applications for EHCPs and for vital SEND support funding. The future of SEND funding remains as always uncertain, but the level of need remains high. Governors continue to be committed to supporting staff in doing all we can to ensure that our fully inclusive school, where we embrace children with all levels of need, remains a safe and supportive educational environment.

As everyone will know we have waited some long time now for Ofsted to return to our school and they finally came in the last weeks of this academic year. It was a 2-day inspection. The Chair was there on both days with all governors there on the second day to talk to the inspectors. The outcome of the Inspection was that the school was judged solidly Good in all areas.

The Governors would like to hugely congratulate all the staff and pupils at the school for all their hard work and commitment over this last year, and in particular to the Headteacher for her unstinting Leadership.

Conclusion of Impact

Over the last year we can see the following:

Finance – In difficult financial circumstances the governing Board has supported the school in making the budget work to best support all the children.

Premises – We have seen again great improvements in the facilities at the school which has expanded and improved what we can offer.

Pupil Premium – governors hold the school to account regarding its use of Pupil Premium monies. Governors continue to review and support the use of the premium on extracurricular activities such as music, sport, breakfast and After School clubs to enhance the provision for all those eligible. Governors continue to monitor progress of our most vulnerable groups including a group for Young Carers, to ensure that we are doing all we can to make progress in “Closing the Gap”.

Subject Leaders – Governors have again supported subject leader training and are monitoring the impact of this across the school. The Leadership and staff team along with the Governors have worked extremely hard again this year to ensure that pupils catch up as much as possible in the continued aftermath of the Pandemic.

Reading and Writing– governors have continued to support initiatives to ensure attainment in these areas continues to improve.

Forest School - Governors continue to support this initiative and have again supported the necessary budgeting to allow this to continue and develop. Governors have closely monitored and are very pleased with how the forest school teaching has been adding outstanding value for students across the school.

Safeguarding –safeguarding across the school is extremely robust and includes consistent training and updates for all staff and governors

SEND- Governors have remained committed to supporting our staff to offer the best Provision and support for our children with SEN and Educational Health and Care Plans. This has continued to be a strong focus throughout for the school.

Academic attainment – Governors continue to ask challenging questions surrounding academic achievement and what steps are being taken to ensure that all children make good or better progress considering their starting points and their individual needs.

Future Plans - Governors will continue to fully support the leadership of Hingham Primary School as they face the on-going challenges of education. We will continue monitoring, challenging, and supporting the Head Teacher, leadership team and staff where appropriate, to ensure the continued best outcomes for the children.

Please contact the governing Board if you would like to join us or have any comments or suggestions to make.