



Annual Governance Statement for West Rainton Primary School 2022-23

School values and mission statement

The governing body of the school commit their time voluntarily to offer both support and challenge to the headteacher in the effective running of the school and the continuous drive to always aim higher.

- As a governing body we are proud to be an integral part of **shaping healthy, safe and prosperous lives** and futures of the pupils of West Rainton Primary School.
- We know we **provide a safe, happy and welcoming school** where everyone is listened to and respected.
- We are committed to **ensuring and assuring high quality learning experiences** in line with the school's key curriculum drivers of: aiming high; skills for learning and life; growing healthily; and knowledge of the world.
- We **prioritise the safeguarding and wellbeing** of our pupils through stringent recruitment procedures, our own ongoing training and regular monitoring.
- We **champion high attendance** alongside our senior leaders to promote supportive policies, procedures and incentives that are unique to our context.
- We continually **consider the cost of the school day** to parents and carers, creating inventive ideas and making effective use of premium funding to ensure the best value for money for all pupils.
- We are a school at the heart of our local community. We strive to be an **integral, positive part of society**, making diverse and ambitious links to work together for success.
- We ensure that West Rainton Primary School is a happy, supportive and inclusive place to work, **recognising that our staff are our most valuable resource**, and that their wellbeing is key to ongoing success.

The Governing Body of West Rainton Primary School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

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, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance Arrangements

The governing body has welcomed a new member in the past year and has begun a programme of induction training with them.

Governor training this year has included safeguarding, safer recruitment, online safety, UKGDPR, curriculum monitoring, Ofsted preparation and reducing the cost of the school day to ensure the governing body have a good awareness of the impact of poverty.

Committee dates and times are arranged well in advance with agendas and supporting documentation provided at least two weeks prior. This ensures our governing body meetings are always very well attended.

Changes continue to be updated on GIAS and our school website to ensure information about governors is up to date.

<p>Key issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body in the past year</p>	<p>In line with the school improvement planning documentation of 2022-23, the governing body supported the strategic oversight of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Successfully welcoming new staff members into the team, ensuring they feel included and equipped to carry out their roles successfully. 2) A dedicated EYFS governor supported the EYFS team and senior leaders in their monitoring of a new bespoke EYFS curriculum for the context of the school community. 3) Supporting senior and subject leaders in ensuring and assuring a quality curriculum across all subject areas. 4) Governors continue to check in on staff workload and wellbeing, including that of the headteacher. 5) Recruitment of new members of the governing body is proving difficult despite several attempts. 6) Successful preparation for and experience of an Ofsted inspection.
<p>Assessment of impact</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The governing body supported with recruitment and monitored how well staff members had settled into roles across the year. This included checking in on the tutoring and mentoring of and Early Career Teacher, a new EYFS teaching assistant, an apprentice TA and the induction of a caretaker, new to the role. 2) Over the year, the team worked on all aspects of provision, drilling down to granular detail about topic content, text choice, parental engagement and progression from 2-5-year olds. Governors were able to oversee the second year of a new curriculum and monitor the impact on core skills such as language and communication. The setting is now an ELKLAN accredited setting for information carrying words as well as a communication-friendly setting. 3) Governors supported the school leaders in looking at enhancements to the curriculum and reinstatement of extra-curricular activities such as clubs, productions and visits. The maths governor has supported the lead on introducing a new scheme of work and the reorganisation and revisiting of core objectives of the scheme to best meet the needs of our pupils. Cultural governors were proud to support the arts lead in attaining Artsmark Platinum award in 2023. 4) A designated governor for staff wellbeing has continued to support. Alongside, the staff lead for wellbeing, they have regularly monitored measures taken to protect staff in school, as well as arranging many forums for staff to reconnect after working in isolation for so long. The headteacher is now a qualified senior mental health lead. 5) The governing body supported a new parent governor across the academic year. There is interest in the one parent governor vacancy. A co-opted governor vacancy remains to be filled. 6) Governance came out strongly in our recent Ofsted inspection with inspectors recognising the 'strong oversight of the quality of education' that governors have.
<p>Future plans for the Governing Body</p>	<p>In 2023-2024 academic year, the Governing Body, in their individual subject roles will be working alongside subject leads to both support and challenge the strategic oversight of a bespoke assessment programme in line with the school's curriculum and in response to the Ofsted area for improvement.</p>

	<p>Members of the Governing Body will all receive Safeguarding CPD across the year in the form of briefings and training.</p>
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	<p>The Governing Body remain concerned about the impact of rising costs on both the financial running of the school, but also on families and pupils in the coming year.</p>
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<p>You can find details about our governing body and how to contact us on the governor page of the school website. We welcome the views, comments and ideas from parents and our school community.</p>	
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