



STRETHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021-22

Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance

The Instrument of Government for Stretham Community Primary School allows for 12 governors across different categories.

The Governing Body Membership currently stands at 11, with 1 vacancy for a parent governor.

Through the course of the 21-22 Academic Year, the Governing Body has lost 2 governors and gained 2 governors in their place.

Over the course of the 2021-22 Academic Year, the Governing Body is co-chaired by Anne Cowan and Sue Rudkin.

The work of the Governing Body has been supported by Trudie Davidson, as Clerk to Governors.

Over the course of the year, Governors at Stretham Community Primary School demonstrate an overall positive attendance and engagement with their work. Further information about governor attendance can be found on the school website.

The Structure of Governance

Our Full Governing Body meets formally twice termly, which captures HR, Finance, Health and Safety and Teaching and Learning Aspects. Within this we also have various working party groups that report back within the Full Governing Body Meetings. This ensures that all Governors have sufficient oversight, support and accountability towards areas of identified priority and statutory coverage.

The Governing Body overall have a continued oversight of the school's safeguarding responsibilities and manage the updates of school policies aligned to the particular areas of responsibility.

In addition to the above, the school also constitutes a Salary Committee, Health and Safety and Headteacher Performance Management Panel annually.

Committees related to purposes such as dealing with complaints or exclusions are constituted as they are required, in line with the determining policy guidance.



Impact of the work of the Full Governing Body

The last academic year has not been an easy one as the work of the Governing Board has for the last three terms been conducted via zoom and has meant that there have not been any visits into the school due to Covid-19. In the Summer Term we began holding our Governing meeting in School as we move away at speed from managing Covid in the school to “living with it”. The Governing Body has demonstrated notable impact with regard to;

- Under normal circumstances, the Governors should be looking strategically; however, for 21/22 this was not the case. It was agreed that our main role was to ensure staff are happy, ensure children are catching up, ensure if there is a local outbreak the school can deliver remote learning. To do this
 - o Supporting the school’s Risk Assessment with regard to Covid-19 and enabling the safe return to school for children and adults alike.
 - o Receiving updates from the Headteacher to inform their work in response to the pandemic, ensuring the continued education and safety of all children.
 - o The school has a fortnightly newsletter, which shows that, even with Covid, other activities have taken place to bring normality for the children showing clear evidence that this is taking place - even though Governors have not been in the school.
 - o The views of staff were gathered in the summer term and this will help with the development going forward.
- Overseeing updates about the progress made against the School Development Plan
- Post Covid data has been shared looking at the areas of maths, reading and writing to identify where each cohort is against the expected result. This has influenced and guided the approach to how to cater for children’s needs. It is being done at an individual level rather than one approach “fits all”.
- A new Library has been created to enhance the children’s enjoyment of reading. Governors have ensured that money is in the budget for the next three years to ensure that it is maintained. It is clear to see the enjoyment that the children are getting.
- Within school there are a few Health and Safety issues and the Governors are working with the Local authority to establish what can be done to rectify the concerns. We do have budget constraints so it is important that we ensure we get value for money in these areas.



Governor Training

Governor's work is collective, so we are always able to benefit from our different points of view and considerations within meetings. However, the Governing Body has also benefitted from training courses on the following topics throughout the course of the year.

- LA Briefings – in order to remain up to date with information.
- Refresher for Safer Recruitment – as the Governors are involved in recruiting teachers.
- Safeguarding – A Governors Role
- The LA course - How Does Finance Work in schools
- Pupil Premium – A Governors role
- Supporting the development of new curriculum
- Two new Governors completed LA Governors introduction training.

Governor Monitoring

As well as attending meetings, governors would be expected to visit school to understand more about school life and particular areas of priority (typically linked with different areas of the curriculum). However due to Covid-19 and the restrictions that has imposed it has been very limited in the first three terms. For the summer terms we are moving forward and held an

- informal meeting with school staff and Governors involving visiting classrooms and meeting pupils and staff. The purpose was for new governors to get to meet the staff of the school and for the Governors to introduce themselves to the staff.

Even with Covid meetings were held through the course of this year, Governors have undertaken particular monitoring in relation to;

- Premises, Health and Safety visits.
- Head Teachers Performance Management meeting.



Forward Planning

For 22 – 23, the Governing Body looks forward to returning to a “normal” structure to its work in the forthcoming academic year. This will include.

- Providing continued oversight regarding the impact of expenditure upon children’s outcomes.
- Ensuring that the new curriculum is embedded in the school from September and stretches the potential for the children. That all children are taken along on the journey, and none left behind.
- Strategically we look at taking the school forward in terms of marketing of the school, ensuring that our existing resources are used to their potential and looking at any new areas to enhance the profile of Stretham Community Primary School.
- Strategically ensuring that the Health and Safety issues are overcome with help from the Local Authority and establishing what elements the school’s own budget will need to pick up.

Other information and contact

Further information regarding the work of the Governing Body can be found at: www.strethamschool.co.uk This includes information regarding attendance of governors and their Declarations of Interest.

Alternately, stakeholders are always welcome to engage with the work of the Governing Body by contacting the Chair of Governors via email to chair@stretham.cambs.sch.uk regarding the work of the Governing Body.