

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing  
Body of White Notley C of E Primary School  
September 2023**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the White Notley Primary School Governing Body are:

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

**Governance  
arrangements**

The Governing Body of White Notley C of E Primary School was reconstituted in January 2018 and is currently made up of:

- 2 staff Governors (including the Headteacher)
- 2 elected Parent Governors
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 1 Foundation Governor
- 1 Associate Governor
- 1 Link Person
- 4 Co-opted Governors

Co-opted Governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. We have undertaken an audit of skills and are very pleased that new Governors have been appointed who have the relevant skills we were previously missing.

The full Governing Body meetings take place twice in the Autumn term and once in the other two terms. At White Notley C of E Primary we have two committees which also meet termly to consider different aspects of the school in detail:

Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee, which deals with the financial running of the school. It ensures that decisions about how the school should use the budget are wise and sustainable.

They also check for compliance with changes in legislation regarding health and safety. They look at the maintenance and development of the school premises. They carry out termly checks of the premises.

	<p>The Curriculum, Standards, Welfare and Monitoring committee supports the welfare of pupils and staff and ensures that school improvement data given by staff continues to be positive.</p> <p>Each Governor is responsible for individual areas of the curriculum and makes regular monitoring visits to the school to discuss with staff and pupils and to ensure policies are not just read but acted upon.</p>
<p><b>Attendance record of Governors</b></p>	<p>Governors have excellent attendance at meetings. (There is a specific number of Governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made.)</p> <p>The attendance 'register' can be found on the school website.</p>

<p><b>The work we have done on our committees and in the Governing Body</b></p>	<p>The Governors, together with staff and pupils at the school worked hard on developing our Vision document, with support from the Diocesan advisor. This is complete now and is a good basis to celebrate the current strengths of the school, as well as to move forward. It focuses on Learning, Inclusion, Faith and Environment and we continue to hope it will impact on the children in all four areas. Our input is included on the School Development Plan paperwork for the year and we are more aware of the strategic rather than operational role we hold. LIFE was used as the basis of last year's Ofsted report and is also used in newsletters and other communications. The children were involved in writing a 'Child speak' version of the version and we hope this makes it accessible to everyone in the school community.</p> <p>We follow the seven Nolan principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.</p> <p>Governors met with Ofsted inspectors and were able to speak very knowledgeably about the strengths of and challenges facing the school currently. <i>'Leaders, including governors, work wisely to bring about change. Governors actively support leaders and staff with monitoring the curriculum and school systems. Working together in this way fosters positive relationships and means staff enjoy working in the school. In turn, this makes school a happy, welcoming place for pupils and their parents'</i>. Ofsted Dec 2022.</p> <p>As a Full Governing Board (FGB) we meet face to face. We have continued to keep committee meetings on Zoom as an effective way to reduce travel times. Monitoring visits are our best way of</p>
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ensuring that what is being taught has a very positive impact on the children's learning, progress and achievement. Staff continue to welcome us into school for these and the revised monitoring forms are an excellent basis for discussion. We continue to ask pertinent questions, including about the curriculum and data, both in these visits and in governors' meetings.

We are very aware of the ongoing financial difficulties, faced by every school at this time and work hard to avoid running a deficit budget though realise this may not always be possible. We have agreed to Ruth Baugh continuing her work with the federation schools for the remainder of this academic year with certain provisos to maintain her wellbeing as well as that of Patsy Fitzpatrick who is doing an amazing job at leading the school here when Ruth is elsewhere. This has significantly improved our budget without the need to reduce staffing here but we are aware this is not a long-term solution.

Governors are also focused on safeguarding and as our Nominated Governor for Safeguarding, Angie Nunn is proving herself very effective in monitoring this important area. A termly report is given to the Governors about any safeguarding matters. All governors undertake annual safeguarding training. *'Governors are particularly knowledgeable about safeguarding. It means they can use school visits to check safeguarding systems thoroughly. They closely review the preemployment checks on new staff. They also quiz staff about their training, checking staff understand their responsibilities.'* Ofsted Dec 2022.

National and local data for the last academic year is now available and is a real credit to staff and pupils alike. We continue, as Governors, to analyse progress and attainment data given by staff both within monitoring visits and within Governors' meetings.

One of the roles for the Governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies. Governors approve policies at committee meetings and at Full Governing Body meetings.

Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents – you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.

Our priority to ensure robust and effective monitoring from Governors is to continue. The staff have worked hard to redesign the curriculum to benefit all our children. We are taking a more rigorous and focused approach to monitoring, using progress and attainment data to drive our focus and questioning. We are very

**Future plans for the Governors**

keen that the school provides a meaningful cross-curricular education for all pupils.

We continue to be aware of wellbeing issues for all stakeholders and will continue to monitor these through conversations with staff, pupils and parents as well as relevant surveys.

We will continue to evaluate our own effectiveness as Governors and to attend relevant training. All Governors are encouraged to make use of online training modules and to complete at least one of these each term. Other training is also supported.

We continue to discuss the relevance of being a Church school, knowing how much it affects the ethos of everyone in the school which we know is a deciding factor for many parents and staff who choose White Notley. We continue to look for local church leadership involvement too in readiness for our future SIAMS inspection (not this academic year)

**How you can contact the Governing Body**

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Ruth Hale, through the school office. You can see the full list of Governors, their attendance at meetings and more information about what we do, on the Governors’ page of the school website.