

2020-21 – Governors’ Report to Parents

Moorfield’s Primary School’s governors focus on ensuring that pupils make fitting progress and attain to the best of their ability. In 2020-21 we have continued to support the staff and parents in developing pupils’ educational outcomes; whether this be their performance in national curriculum subjects or their development as individuals that possess life skills and character required in order to function in wider society. They should be pupils who possess the moral understanding, virtues and key skills needed to grow into good citizens.

The underpinning ethos of Moorfield has continued to develop during the challenges that 2021 has provided. The Governing Body support a well led, enthusiastic, professional, capable and talented staff. Within our safe, caring and stimulating community our children are challenged to flourish. We continue to support the school unequivocally in these efforts.

Moorfield Governing Body Sept 2021 Annual Governance Statement (2020-2021). This annual statement from Governors to parents is organised around the three core objectives of the Governing Body, these being the main focus of the Governing Body.

- 1. Setting the strategic direction of the school.**
- 2. Holding the school to account.**
- 3. Ensuring the financial wellbeing of the school.**

This year has seen the continuation of the use of two key working groups - the Business Management Working Group and the Curriculum Working Group. These governor teams continue to work closely with the Senior Leadership Team, the Head teacher and subject lead teachers, to monitor the priorities of the School Improvement Program. The whole governing body meets termly in addition to these groups for formal meetings that feed into the full governing body meetings.

Similar to last year, 2020-21 has been a particularly challenging, especially in relation to the difficulties brought on by the Coronavirus pandemic. Pupil absence, changing public health guidance, covid catch up expectations, keyworker taught provision, home learning systems and plotting a return to normal school life all brought about different challenges. The pandemic and its impacts continued to cause school leaders to refocus efforts towards new targets and priorities during the year. In spite of this, strong progress was made towards the majority of development plan areas.

The key achievements are summarised below:

Strategic Direction -The governors moved towards a remote meeting structure during this period. The pandemic limited the opportunity for us to visit school safely, but technology allowed us to meet regularly and understand school needs and operational issues. Online governors’ meetings allowed us to scrutinise all development plans as well as new updated and existing policy documents. We continue to work with the SLT to examine how residential trips will return to the curriculum when safe to do so. Where possible we have consulted parents and listened to views. This will be a priority over the next twelve months as we recover from the pandemic period.

Holding the School to Account - We continue to review and update school policies to ensure the school remains compliant with statutory requirements. Governors undertook relevant training (e.g. Safeguarding Updates). We have discussed new priorities brought up by the Coronavirus pandemic, agreeing risk assessments, working with local authority figures, attending briefings and offering on-going support to staff. We continued to provide challenge to school leaders; regularly reviewing pupil performance data (as part of full governors' meetings), monitoring progress on the school development plan (through termly headteacher reports to governors) and asking relevant and challenging questions of all key decisions.

As a body we approved the finance budget and agreed a range of spending on both staff training and purchases aimed at further improving school environment and overall educational provision. We worked alongside the HT, business manager and local authority to implement a new leadership model within school. Following the promotion of the previous deputy headteacher to a headship, we agreed the adoption of a dual assistant headteacher model. This replaced the deputy head teacher role with two senior members of staff in assistant headteacher positions. This has provided flexibility and additional support to Mr Bussey. This also allowed for those senior teachers to undertake additional but key responsibilities where greater capacity was desirable.

The financial well-being of the school continues to be strong. We, alongside senior staff and business manager, ensure the finances of the school are regularly reviewed and challenged. We are confident that resources are effectively used and funding efficiently spent. We continued to monitor and review the way Pupil Premium money is spent; focusing on the needs of individual children. We agreed the continued update of resources, school infrastructure and on-going repairs. We also agreed a plan of action for school-led tutoring programmes as a response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Health and Safety - The governing body is aware of and responded to advice and guidance offered at local and national levels with regards the Coronavirus pandemic. It worked alongside the senior leadership team to agree changes and updates to policy and practice as and when required. Updated risk assessments were shared by the headteacher and agreed in line with expectations. Normal Health and Safety audits and activity has continued to take place. We have ensured that safeguarding knowledge of the Governors is reviewed in accordance with legislative changes. Where required, we have reviewed and updated other school risk assessments, to ensure hazards within the school are reduced as far as is reasonably practicable, and safe systems are in place to address and control those which cannot be eliminated.

The governing body would like to thank the whole school community for working so well together. The continued development of Moorfield is a priority for all, and the school remains a positive and welcoming environment with excellence at its heart. Particular thanks go to Mr Bussey and the staff for their on-going dedication and hard work.

Message from the Chair

On a personal note, it has been a pleasure to act as Chair of Governors for Moorfield primary School over the past two years. I have been amazed on numerous occasions and often marvel at how well all members of the community come together to help the school grow, improve and flourish. As I step down as chair, I wish Claire Lindsay the best of luck as she undertakes the role in 2022 and beyond.

Andy Hutchinson (CoG Moorfield Primary School 2020-21)