

Sedbergh Primary School

Governors Annual Statement - August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

In accordance with Government's requirements for all Governing Boards, the three strategic functions of the Sedbergh Primary School Governing Board are:

- *ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction*
- *holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school*
- *overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent*

Governance

The Governing Board consists of ten members who met six times during the last year, with all meetings held virtually using video conferencing. There are two main sub committees, 'Finance, Buildings and Resources' covering; budget, facilities, premises and Health and Safety, and 'Curriculum and Staffing' that examines our curriculum, pupil progress, safeguarding and staffing, both committees meet at least once per term.

Individual governors are linked to core subjects, as well as Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Health and Safety, Secondary School Liaison and Early Years Foundation Stage. They liaise with school at least termly to discuss with subject/specific lead teachers the varying aspects associated with each area, these discussions have again been held virtually, a restriction on personal visits has been in place throughout the year. We have been kept fully informed of developments in school, including reviewing the Risk Assessment documentation regarding pupils at and returning to school.

Governors after a lengthy process, caused by delays in the appointment due to the pandemic, in seeking a new Headteacher, we have in conjunction with the Local Authority appointed, Mrs Victoria Hudson as the school's new leader and she will commence with us on the 1st January 2022. She will, during the Autumn Term be visiting school as part of the induction process.

Details of specific governor roles and their attendance records can be found on the school website.

2020/2021

Educationally, the pandemic has given rise to the alterations required of teaching methods during lockdown and the consequent reconnection for pupils and staff upon the return in March 2021 to face to face engagement.

School opened for the Autumn Term and except for operating in 'class bubbles' lessons continued as timetable, the unexpected closure of school in January, with the exception of providing the facility for children of key workers and vulnerable children throughout the lockdown through to mid-March, causing the reintroduction of home schooling with the experiences gained from last year this was implemented speedily with regular contacts with parents and pupils through and until the reopening of school in the middle of March.

The school has utilised additional grant funding received to provide additional educational resources to assist in the teaching and learning, after another protracted absence by pupils and to ensure that all are brought up to the level of expectation that would have been experienced in normal times.

Throughout the year at both Board and at the Curriculum and Progress Committee meetings comprehensive reporting has been provided so that the necessary challenge and support can be made by governors towards assisting the senior leadership team as well as providing the necessary resources, where required ensuring pupil learning experience is at a point that is expected. The wellbeing of staff and pupils across the whole school is also, considered by the board to be of paramount importance.

2021/2022

The coming academic year will again, provide some challenges for both teachers and pupils, school will continue to provide additional resources regarding teaching and learning, allowing the reconnection necessary for all children.

There are changes to the EYFS curriculum from September, Jayne Jones our EYFS lead will be implementing these with her team to ensure compliance. To increase our Nursery intake, we have invested in and appointed an additional qualified teacher in this area to allow us to offer a significant increase in places available for children in this age group.

Unfortunately, the planned 'Big Build' and 'Terrace' alterations have had to be delayed, we will keep you informed of developments regarding these projects. Parent Apps has provided detailed information as necessary and will continue to be an important function in the way we communicate.

We have reviewed our School Development Plan and we will ensure that our Vision and Strategic Direction, which are already well established, remains as central to the life of the school.

The governance role is to support the school and to monitor, challenge and evaluate the provision of the education provided to pupils as 'critical friends. Our emphasis is firmly on supporting through the current challenges. For the new academic year our focus, as well as providing support, will also be in ensuring that, through regular reporting, the progress and attainment of all our pupils continues, according to plans that have been developed for their futures.

Governors fully appreciate the efforts of our excellent staff team, who have been coping with and providing continued education for all pupils during these exceptional circumstances working in class 'bubbles' and providing home schooling when necessary, and we thank them for their professionalism, care and dedication.

Governors would like to thank parents, carers, and members of the community for their support of the school. We appreciate your understanding of the pressures on the staff and for your assistance and positive feedback.

We always welcome suggestions and ideas from parents/carers. Please feel very welcome to contact me, Peter Irvine, Chair of Governors, via the school office or email at chair@sedbergh-pri.cumbria.sch.uk

Kind regards

Peter Irvine

Chair of Governors

