

Kirkby Malzeard Primary School Governors' Report Academic Year 2016-2017

The core functions of the 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 all pupils.**
3. **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent.**

Our governing body was reconstituted in March 2015 and is made up of 12 governors including parents, a staff nominee and members representing our local community, St. Andrew's Church and the Local Authority. We ensure that there is a wide range of life experience and skills relevant to the needs of our school; which include an in-depth experience in nursery, primary, secondary and special needs education, science and arts, law, the military and the church.

In fulfilling its core functions, the governing body works closely with our headteacher and all members of staff, being "critical friend" and providing professional and personal support. Governors hold strongly to the principle that all parties involved in our school along with our children are part of a team, a team with one clear objective:

"To provide high quality education in a safe, happy supportive environment"

As with all effective teams, governors encourage all stakeholders - headteacher, staff, parents, governors and pupils - to have clear roles but to work closely together in the achievement of this objective. A priority is to aim for clear, open communication at all times between all of these stakeholders.

The full governing body meets nine times a year. Each governor specialises in a curriculum subject area or area of school organisation. This role involves a detailed knowledge and understanding of their specific area and the responsibility of reporting, as appropriate, to the full governing body. In this way all governors gain up to date detailed knowledge of issues arising in all areas of school life which informs discussion and decisions.

There are two standing committees, having responsibilities for:

Staffing

Links with our partner school, St. Nicholas, West Tanfield

Members of the following committees are on 'standby' for meeting if the need arises:

Staff discipline

Pupil discipline

Complaints

Appeals

All committees report to the full governing body as appropriate.

The governing body has a rolling programme which focuses on specific areas of governance, including the school development plan, the curriculum and its assessment, finance, personnel and resources, including buildings. Discussions include monitoring and reviewing all of these and other aspects of school life. Only after very careful consideration of the probable impact on all of our children are changes to policy and practice authorised. The overriding principle is that changes will lead to demonstrable benefits for pupils.

Ongoing Work:

1. The rolling programme of key issues.
2. At every meeting, discussion, questions, challenges as each item is covered.
3. The regular programme of visits by specialist governors, involving meetings with staff, review of policies and curriculum content, learning walks, meeting pupils. Findings are reported to the full governing body.
4. Very regular meetings between headteacher and chair of governors.

Major Outcomes 2016-2017:

1. Monitoring the implementation of the two new learning units:
Early Years
Key Stage Two.
2. Further development of links with St. Nicholas, West Tanfield for the benefit of pupils and staff.
3. Decision not to become an academy, but to keep the position under review.
This decision followed detailed enquiries covering practice and outcomes across schools in many parts of the country, visits to academies, reviews of research findings and attendance at local meetings. Governors' decision was based on lengthy discussions of all the resulting information. The conclusion is that no major benefits for our pupils and staff were identified, that by and large we are content with our current links with North Yorkshire Education Authority and that the future of our school is more secure in local hands, with its own governing body and support from the local community than under the control of a multi academy trust.
4. After nineteen years dedicated service to the school, Mrs Giuliana Cryer left at the end of the summer term.
5. Appointment of Mr. Sam Donaldson and Mr. Sean Rutter.
6. Full implementation of plans to improve the fabric of our buildings and surrounding areas:
New gates and security at the Manor Court entrance
New gates at the Church St. entrance
Security fencing at the car park border.
Security gate leading to rear playground
New security systems within the main school building
Major improvement to the reception area outdoor classroom
Total refurbishment to the old school house
Attention to fencing around the school grounds.
7. Work with North Yorkshire Education Department resulting in approved plans for two new classrooms to be erected in Summer 2018 and plans yet in an early stage to redesign car parking.
8. A successful bid to the National Lottery Fund made possible the supply and erection of a Keep Fit Timber Trail.

Priorities for 2017-2018:

1. Continue to closely monitor all aspects of school life, particularly to ensure that:
All elements of our mission statement are "alive"
The progress of every child is regularly monitored and identified interventions are rapidly applied.
2. Continue to keep well informed about national and local developments regarding academies and school groupings.
3. Continue to work with St. Nicholas and Kirkby Preschool and explore ways of developing links with other local schools.
4. The governing body will continue to support, advise and be critical friend to our headteacher and all staff as they work for all our children in this ever-changing education landscape.

List of governors:

Name	Governor category	Term expiry date	Attendance record (9 possible)
Andrea Peacock	Headteacher	N/A	9 (+3 JSDC)
Rebecca Wolfe	Staff governor	01.09.2017	9
Stephen Weld	L.A. governor	01.09.2017 (re-appointed)	8
Malcom Brigg (Chair)	Foundation governor	30.07.2018	9 (+2 JSDC)
Liz Jarvis	Foundation governor	30.07.2018	6
Tracey Cole-Brownlee	Parent governor	30.10.2017	7 (+3 JSDC)
Gemma Pawson	Parent governor	30.10.2017	9
Heather Clark-Kelly (Vice)	Co-opted governor	15.03.2019	6
Karen Pickles	Co-opted governor	15.03.2019	8 (+2 JSDC)
Gwynneth Jackson	Co-opted governor	15.03.2019	7
Claire Armer	Co-opted governor	15.03.2019	5/7 (resigned 10.07.2017)

Shelley Denby

Co-opted governor

11.07.2021

1/1 (appointed
12.07.2017)