

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body

September 2021

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the core strategic functions of Elveden Church of England Primary Academy Governing Body are to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school;
- Oversee the financial performance of the school, ensuring value for money;
- Promote the highest possible standards for Safeguarding.

Arrangements

The Governing Body of Elveden Church of England Primary Academy is made up of eight members, the majority nominated by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. There are five foundation governors, 1 staff governor and 1 parent governor.

The full Governing Body meet each term, with additional meetings held to update the Governors knowledge and understanding of key issues. These included Finance, premises and personnel, Standards and Audit and Risk. Over the last year the Finance Committee meetings have increased to six per year whilst Standards and Audit and Risk Committees meet once per term.

During 2021-22 there will continue to be a focus on developments to increase classroom sizes. This has been held over from the previous year due to the pandemic which caused building work to be put on hold. The impact of this being an increase in costings for the development leading to the Senior Leadership Team and Governors having to prioritise what building work will take place as and when it can be afforded. The Governors will continue to work towards procuring funds to update and improve premises in line with increased numbers.

Attendance

Governors have a good attendance record. The end of year accounts on the school's website details the attendance of each individual Governor at these meetings.

Committees

Over this reporting period the Governors have reviewed and revised the structure of the committees.

Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee now meet six times per year. This allows scrutiny of the schools finances and detailed reports fed back to the full governing board.

Standards Committee now meet three times per year. Members of this committee attend the termly SEO whereby Governors become familiar with the School Development Plan and have oversight on the Headteachers and Senior Leadership Team's delivery of school progress.

Audit and Risk Committee meet once per term which informs the Full Governing Board.

Actions

The nominated Governor for safeguarding Rev Tams has regularly checked the Single Central records (SCR). Audits have been held by the Governors to ensure school, staff and pupil safety and wellbeing. As a Governing Board we are committed to everyone in the school community feeling safe and valued.

A Strategy Day was held in the summer term for Senior Leadership Team and Governors to work together on the School Development Plan (SDP). This was advisor led as part of Governor training and led to a collaborative SDP that the Governors will monitor over the coming year. Monitoring and reporting visits will have an identified strategic focus from an area of the SDP.

Governors have continued to review and agree school policies. This year they have been numerous amendments and additions necessary due to the COVID19 pandemic.

The ongoing demands of the pandemic on operational and strategic planning has significantly increased workload for all teaching staff including regularly updating policy documentation, risk assessment, home learning, diversifying provision. This has been closely monitored by the Governing

Board in relation to the wellbeing of the staff, including wellbeing surveys and subsequent procurement of resources.

Future Plans

The LGB will be working with Headteacher to ensure appropriate succession planning is applied to the school's staffing forecast and create career pathways for identified needs. Alongside this we will be researching various options for the ongoing development of the school following the positive outcome of the very recent OFSTED visit and report.

How you can contact the Governing Body

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chairs of the Governing Body, Lynne Proudlock, via the school office. You can see more about the role of the LGB in the Governors' section of the school website. www.Elveden.suffolk.sch.uk