

Annual Governance Statement 2018

White Bridge Primary School, Loughton

In accordance with the Government's requirements for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of White Bridge Primary School 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.

The governing body of White Bridge Primary School during the academic year 2017 – 2018 was made up of 11 governors comprising: 2 Staff Governors (including the Headteacher) 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Authority Governor appointed by Essex County Council and 6 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. A term of office is 4 years.

The full governing body meets at least once each term and in addition we have had a number of subcommittees that meet termly to consider various aspects of the school in detail. We devolved our responsibilities to 2 main committees; Standards (focussing on pupil progress and educational attainment), and Finance & Premises, addressing budgetary and building maintenance concerns. Governors are expected to serve on at least 1 committee, as well as attending the Full Governing Body meetings. In addition other committees such as the Pay Committee are convened as necessary. The Headteacher sits on all Committees. A Governor Day is held in school annually.

Meeting attendance during the last year has been excellent (full details of attendance is included at Appendix 1), and this has enabled full discussion of the matters in consideration at all meetings. The Clerk to the governing body ensures that all meetings are accurately recorded and governors are updated on the latest policies relating to their responsibilities.

The governing body delegates the day-to-day running of White Bridge Primary School to the Headteacher and Leadership Team. Since the school was amalgamated from separate Infant and Junior schools, there has been no OFSTED inspection, but the inspection of the Infant School in 2011 rated the school as 'Good'.

White Bridge will have 510 places in 17 classes in September 2018, as the school continues its expansion to full 3 form entry throughout the school, supported by the additional classroom space, the successful construction of which has been overseen at all points by the governors. This space provides a modern learning environment which can be used by all pupils, without detrimental impact to the existing character of the school buildings.

Governors use the School Development Plan to monitor the school's objectives on an annual basis. The 4 key areas of the School Development Plan were:

- Quality of Teaching, Learning & Assessment
- Outcomes for Pupils
- Effectiveness of Early Year Foundation Stage
- Effectiveness of Leadership & Management

Throughout the academic year, Governors monitor pupil progress data to ensure that attainment is reaching expected levels, and also that appropriate interventions are put in place to raise attainment for any groups of pupils where it is felt necessary.

Governors are proud that the Key Stage 1 and 2 tests taken in the summer term 2018 continue to show strong performance in all areas, at least in line with the national average. Particularly pleasing is the consolidation of an excellent performance in Reading, following extensive attention during the previous year.

- Key Stage 1 – above national in writing, in line with national in reading and maths.
- Key Stage 2 – above national in reading and writing, in line with national in maths.

Over and above academic achievements, White Bridge continues to offer pupils a wide and enriching range of school trips, extra-curricular activities and after school clubs. The installation of the daily mile track facilitates regular exercise for all pupils, and a focus on health and fitness has translated to excellent sporting performance across numerous sports, with a number of pupils achieving success at district and county levels.

Finally, Governors and staff alike have overseen the seamless transition of White Bridge into the newly-created Epping Forest Schools Partnership Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). We are proud to have participated in the first wave of converting schools, having played a strong and active role in the shaping the ethos and direction of the Trust in a way that will enhance and support the unique character of White Bridge that all involved with the school enjoy and appreciate.

In the new academic year, Governors will build on the relationships built within the Trust, by exploring effective collaboration with peers across the Trust to share best practice, and find more effective ways to monitor pupil progress where possible.

We always welcome suggestions, ideas and feedback from parents. The Chair of Governors Ben Joyce and Clerk to the Governing Body Sherron Alexander-Bedingfield can be contacted via the school office.

Appendix 1 – Governor Attendance

WHITE BRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNOR ATTENDANCE 1st September 2017 – 31st August 2018

Name	FGB Meetings	Resources Committee	Standards Committee	Pay Committee	Local Governing Body (after Academy conversion)
Lucy Bacon	3 out of 3	2 out of 2	2 out of 2		1 out of 1
Steve Barnett (appointed 1/1/18)	1 out of 1 (eligible for 1)	0 out of 1 (eligible for 1)	1 out of 1 (eligible for 1)		1 out of 1
Ben Joyce	3 out of 3	2 out of 2	2 out of 2	1 out of 1 (eligible for 1)	1 out of 1
Andrew Martin (resigned 31/03/2018)	3 out of 3	2 out of 2		2 out of 2	
Katie Marshall (appointed 1/1/17)	2 out of 3		2 out of 2		0 out of 1
Aniket Patel	3 out of 3	1 out of 2		1 out of 1 (eligible for 1)	1 out of 1
Jo Share-Bernia	2 out of 3		2 out of 2		1 out of 1
Craig Sherrin (resigned 31/12/2017)	2 out of 2 (eligible for 2)	2 out of 2		1 out of 1 (eligible for 1)	
Huw Williams	3 out of 3	0 out of 2			1 out of 1
Julie Witteridge	3 out of 3	2 out of 2	2 out of 2	2 out of 2	1 out of 1
Rob Woods	3 out of 3	1 out of 2		1 out of 1 (eligible for 1)	1 out of 1