

Annual Governance Statement for the year 2016/2017

Governing Body Vision Statement

“We are committed to positively and robustly govern the school; ensuring continuous improvement; setting high expectations for our children’s learning; and maintaining a happy, caring and safe environment; in order for our children to fulfil their learning potential.”

School Vision/Mission Statement

“We are committed to making a real and positive difference to every child, every day in a way that will help to guide them in their future.”

The Aims and Ethos of Our School

Fairways aims are built on providing our children with a consistent educational experience and are:

- To create a happy, caring environment with learning and positive experiences for every child.
- To ensure that all children have the opportunity to achieve well.
- To offer a broad, balanced and purposeful curriculum.
- To teach children to develop an enquiring attitude, and to become independent learners.
- To encourage active participation in their learning journey.
- To develop self-awareness and sensitivity to others.
- To develop a sense of self-respect, self-confidence and achievement.
- To develop in children the ability to be contributing members of the community.
- To instill in children respect for moral values.

The Governing Body of Fairway Infant School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

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, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Fairway Infant School was reconstituted in July 2015. The total number of governors is 12 and consists of the following members: 2 parent governors, 1 Local Authority governor, 1 Staff governor, 1 Headteacher and 7 Co-opted governors.

The full Governing Body meets once each term and we also have a number of committees that meet to consider different aspects of the school in detail. We have a Leadership & Management committee that meets each term to consider, amongst other matters, finances and premises. We also have a Curriculum committee which considers the school curriculum, pupil progress and

attainment, and we also have a Pay committee. We also have committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

All governors have areas of responsibilities and visit classes improve their knowledge and understanding of their areas. These areas of special responsibility include: SEND, pupil premium, health and safety, safeguarding and child protection. Governors are welcomed in to school each term to monitor specific development areas as highlighted in the School Development Plan. Reports and monitoring information is shared at Governing Body meetings. This also allows Governors to see the impact of the strategic decisions that are made by the Governing Body and the Headteacher.

Attendance record of governors

Most governors have an excellent attendance record at meetings and we have never had to cancel a meeting because it was not quorate (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).

The work that we have done on our committees and in the Governing Body

- School Development Plan – Regular input, monitoring and review of the progress the school is making.
- Attainment and progress of pupils - Regular monitoring of the attainment and progress data in committee meetings of all pupils and groups of pupils.
- Performance Management/Pay – Arranged for the annual Performance Management of the Headteacher. Reviewed and approved the recommendations made to increase pay on identified staff.
- Monitoring visits – Continued the programme of monitoring visits to the school.
- Training – Identified and carried out statutory training or training relevant for specific governor roles. Regular review of the skills/knowledge of our governors.
- Resources – Committees review the budget closely and authorise the spend annually.
- Policies - Ratified several statutory policies.
- Profile - Actively involved in daily school life and attending school events.

Minutes of the Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents. They can be viewed by making a request at the school office.

How these actions have benefitted the school

- School Development Plan - Progress of the school development plan is reviewed regularly to ensure that the strategic development of the school is robust and cohesive.
- Attainment and progress of pupils - Governors understand the data and can monitor progress on priorities from the School Development Plan. Regular challenge to school leaders on the data received ensure high standards are set and met. They have a good understanding of how our school compares to other school nationally and our areas of strength and weakness. Overall attainment and progress of pupils has increased again this year.

- Performance Management/Pay - Rigorous performance management of the Headteacher is undertaken with external guidance. Pay committee reviews data to determine if pay recommendations are within budget and reflect the quality of teaching.
- Monitoring visits – Governor monitoring visits are focused and tied to the school’s priorities to monitor progress as well as ensure that all areas of school life are effectively monitored. This year significant attention was paid to the progress of embedding Power of Reading and Song of Sounds.
- Training – Governors fully understand their role at the school and have sufficient knowledge to be effective in their role to support and challenge the school.
- Resources – Money is well spent on resources and their impact is linked to the School Development Plan.
- Policies - Policies are compliant with current legislation and adopted in the relevant fashion.
- Profile - Governors have excellent knowledge of daily school life which enables them to inform the whole governing body and provide support to the staff. They have a positive relationship with staff, pupils and parents.

Future plans for the Governing Body

- Continue to ensure the Governing Body are fully involved in the school’s evaluative and improvement planning processes.
- Continue to ensure governors effectively monitor the school’s progress against the School Development Plan, particularly with regards pupils achieving greater depth.
- To ensure that the Governing Body effectively analyses performance and increase rigor in checks on the effectiveness of the school’s actions, specifically including data.
- Improve upon governor’s learning and development.
- Increase the governor understanding of the school and profile of the governors.
- Improve the overall effectiveness of the Governing Body.
- Ensure the school meets its priorities to:
 - Ensure more pupils achieve the highest standards in reading, writing and math.
 - Provide more opportunities to practice and improve handwriting.
 - Continue to find more engaging ways of teaching phonics.
 - Expand opportunities to explain mathematical problem solving.

Contact Details

The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers.

Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school office or governors@fairway.w-sussex.sch.uk.
Details of the full Governing Body are on the school website.