



## **Castle View School Local Governing Body Annual Governance Statement October 2019**

The purpose of a school's governing body, according to law, is to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement. How did we do that in 2018/2019? We focussed on three core functions:

- a. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- b. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- c. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Through our committee structures we met a minimum of six times per term to check that arrangements the head teacher planned with our agreement were on track to ensure the best education for our children. In addition we were frequently in school: the chair met weekly with the Head, most governors carry out observations in school during each term and we attended meetings with school, QEGSMAT and others to carry out our responsibilities in regard to various issues e.g. safeguarding, health and safety and finance.

### Key issues addressed in 2018/2019

#### Nursery development

One of our School Improvement objectives has been to continue to improve our EYFS provision. Our aim is to ensure all children who attend our Nursery and Reception start Key Stage 1 at the expected level of development or higher, and are socially and emotionally ready for school. These skills will lay the foundations for children to successfully access learning and the curriculum, and enable them to become Learners for Life.

With this in mind, the Resources Committee agreed to fund improvements to the EYFS outdoor areas and to invest in becoming a Forest School. Staff have undertaken high quality training with enthusiasm, and are now implementing the Forest School ethos in Early Years and beyond. Forest Schools enable children to learn through playing in the outdoor environment, and encourages them to engage in the world around them.

## Hurst Farm Regeneration Project

Governors continue to be heavily involved in this exciting project, ensuring Castle View is at the heart of the regeneration of Hurst Farm. Castle View is pleased to host a weekly stay and play session every Monday morning, called *Room to Play, Time to Talk*. This session is funded by Friends of Hurst Farm and is run by one of our governors, Leanne, and it is a great opportunity to chat, make friends and play together.

## Early Help Provision

After Derbyshire County Council withdrew their Early Help provision, Highfields and other local primary schools proposed to pool their resources to fund a Family Support Team. Governors agreed to this proposal and will continue to evaluate its effectiveness over the coming months.

## Staff Development

Governors are committed to ensuring staff are valued and developed through excellent continued professional development, and as such have supported and funded several staff to take higher level qualifications.

## Other Improvements

Keeping your children safe is at the heart of what we do, and as such we undertook a major review of all our emergency and contingency preparations to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Access to the dining hall has been improved so it is now wheelchair friendly, and potholes in the car parks have been repaired. Resurfacing work has also been carried out by the canteen and in some playground areas. In addition, the hall floor has been completely refurbished.

## Governance

Overall Governor attendance for Local Governing Board was 62%; School Improvement Committee was 84%; Resources Committee was 78%. All meetings were quorate and Governors were able to carry out their work.

October 16<sup>th</sup> 2019

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