



Castle View School Local Governing Body **Annual Governance Statement October 2020**

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. We have three core functions:

1. To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. To hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff.
3. Oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure it's money is well spent.

Castle View is a member of the QEGSMAT Academy trust. This means that the Board of Trustees have the ultimate legal responsibility for the governance of the school and the Castle View local governors work with them as a team to carry out the responsibilities. This has given us the opportunity to reorganise the way we meet. We no longer have committee meetings for school improvement and resources. Instead, we have increased our full governor meetings from six to eight each school year. The head teacher discusses plans and arrangements with us and we monitor the progress of the plans and the school budget to check they are on track. We check that legal responsibilities such as safeguarding and health and safety are being carried out effectively. We work together with the headteacher and meet with the trustees to ensure the best possible education is provided for the children. Normally governors are frequently in school, making observations and offering support. Since March of this year, it has not been possible to go into school, due to Covid, but governor meetings have continued via video and other discussions have had to take place by phone.

Key issues addressed in 2019/20

Nursery development

One of our School Improvement objectives has been to continue to improve our early years 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'. The planned improvements to the outdoor area have been completed and a large and well equipped area for outdoor play has been provided. Staff have completed training in Forest School delivery and plans are in place to further develop learning in the outdoor environment.

Hurst Farm Regeneration Project

Governors continue to support the development of this project as an important part of the school improvement programme. It is well established that children are better able to make the most of their educational opportunities when they live in a safe environment where their parents are supported with the services and resources they need to help them provide for their families.

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Early Help Provision

School have bought into a scheme delivered from Highfields School. Staff are in place and providing a service to Castle View families. The school pastoral manager works closely with the family support worker and this has led to a more timely and responsive service.

Staff Development

Governors have remained 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

This year extensive repairs to the structure of the buildings have been carried out.

Governance

Local Governing board attendance is recorded for each meeting and is reported via governor statement of meetings. Overall Governor attendance for Local Governing Board was 82.5%. School Improvement Committee was 77% and Resources Committee was 65%.

All meetings were quorate.

September 23rd 2020

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