

Governor Impact statement (September 2023)

Governors' Whole School Aim

The aim of the Governing Body at Carville Primary School is to enable all members of the 'Carville Family' to follow the school vision and provide opportunities for children to develop as independent, ambitious and successful learners who support and care for each other and enjoy learning together.

Governors' Role

The role of the Governing Body is an intrinsic part of the leadership of the school. The Governing Body is made up of a group of dedicated volunteers, who work hard to support and challenge the school, to ensure it provides the best education possible for every child both academically and in terms of personal development.

The Governors, are accountable for the performance of the school and are measured by three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure the money is spent well

Governors attend two full governing body (FGB) meetings each term. In addition, Governors can choose to join three main committees that support the work of the FGB and meet once a term to make decisions related to:

- Staffing, Finance and Pay
- Curriculum and Data
- Safeguarding, Health & Safety and Premises

We continue to have a model of Co-vice chairs to support future succession planning.

All members of the Governing Body are invited to take part in appropriate training from North Tyneside Learning Trust, the National Governance Association or the Local Authority. The impact of this is that the Governing Body are kept abreast of their responsibilities regarding the latest requirements and expectations. Learning and actions from training is shared at Full Governing Body meetings.

Governors review and approve policies throughout the year in FGB meetings and committee meetings. Recently, the governors have reviewed the Finance Policy, the annual GDPR report, the admissions policy, child protection and safeguarding policy, Pay guidance policy, the school's financial values statement, the PE and sports strategy, children with medical needs who cannot attend school and created a pupil version of the Relationships Policy, which illustrates the importance of positive relationships throughout the school.

Impact of the Governing Body

We secured two parent governor appointments and a co-opted appointment to the governing body. This meant that we then needed to update our governor skills audit. Whilst we have drawn in some new governors, we still need more governors and that remains a priority for us.

We supported the important work of the school in developing science by engaging with the work to secure the Science Quality Mark.

The school budget has been scrutinised and reviewed termly by the Staffing, finance and pay committee in detail at these meetings. Careful monitoring and planning of the budget has impacted positively, enabling the school to have a strong and effective staffing structure to support and meet the needs of our children. We also reviewed the catering offer to ensure it was providing the best value for our children.

The staffing, finance and pay committee continue to ensure 'best value' when purchasing items or services. Governors ensure that three quotes for items or services are acquired. Governors also ensure that the Schools Financial Values Standard is updated and submitted to ensure full financial compliance. Ensuring best value has seen the successful move to a new catering contract, as well as ensuring our service level agreements are best value. The committee has also overseen the plan for work that took place over the summer holidays 2022 to repair the roof and remodel the school reception area. We started September 2023 with a new welcoming entrance to the school.

The staffing, finance and pay committee approve the planned spend of Pupil Premium (PP) funding each year and scrutinise evidence of impact on the outcomes for PP Children. Details of the impact of Pupil Premium spending can be found on the website.

The monitoring of Safeguarding and Health & Safety practices are a key priority for governors and is ongoing throughout the year. Regular health and safety updates as well as visits to the school from our link governor ensure compliance with statutory procedures and safety checks including those for ROSPA, Legionella, Fire Risk and Asbestos for example.

Safeguarding reports presented at FGB meetings provide an opportunity to ensure robust procedures and practises are in place and also provide insight into the issues faced by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) and the steps taken to address these. We recently ensured the school updated its Accessibility Plan to meet the needs of all children as well as demonstrating good practice.

Governor safeguarding visits have provided opportunity to speak to children, who report they feel safe and cared for in school and know who to talk to if they are worried about anything.

Governors continue to be proactive in their support for the work the school is doing to address attendance issues as well as challenging to continue to improve attendance and in particular persistent absence.

The impact of this support, challenge and monitoring provides real confidence in the strong safeguarding ethos at Carville Primary School.

Oversight of the curriculum and its impact on outcomes for children is a key focus for the governing body. There is a sharp focus on ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum and ensuring that the intent is clearly articulated and support the vision we have for the school. We scrutinise assessment policies and curriculum statements to ensure they support both high quality teaching as well as the progress of children. We have continued to make sure the curriculum has a Carville focus and ensures that this curriculum is specific to the needs of our children at Carville and helps them make use of the things they have learnt to solve all types of problems. We have continued to support the school to ensure it has a coherent structure in place that focuses on the greatest gaps, supports staff through appropriate training and implements clear progression across the key stages.

Our committees spend time understanding and challenging the school on the progress of all children and this is reported to the FGB. We also have oversight of the School Development

Plan and the Self Evaluation Form. This allows us to track the work the school is doing and challenge progress.

Governors have made a concerted effort over the last year to focus on the most important development areas the school needs to focus on and arranged a full range of in person visits to the school. Visits during the last year have included a focus on:

- Carville Curriculum
- Relationships
- Writing
- Metacognition
- Relationships
- Curriculum and data

Governor visit reports, are written and presented at full governing body meetings. The visits and reports impact greatly on the governing body's ability to effectively ask important questions, support and also challenge.

In addition to our focus on the three strategic functions, Governors have also had a particular oversight and input into key priorities, including:

- Regular review and update of Health and Safety procedures;
- Overview of safeguarding procedures, behaviour and attendance;
- Pupil Premium
- The provision for and the progress made of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities;

The Governing Body continue to be incredibly impressed by the resilience, dedication and adaptability of the staff at the school and, in particular the senior leadership team, who continue to refine plans, seek advice from the Local Authority and other sources to provide fantastic levels of support to the pupils, their families and the wider community.

During the last year the school has also been ensured that the areas identified for improvement from the last OfSTED inspection have been built into our development plans and we continue monitor to ensure the improvements made.

During July governors worked with senior staff and then all staff members to clarify the priorities for the year ahead so that we have a shared understanding and clear plans to continue to move the school forward.

Agreed by the full governing body *September 2023*.