



## Annual Statement from the Governing Body Bede Burn Primary School

The core functions of the Governing Board are:

- To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- To hold the Head Teacher to account for educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance of staff, and;
- To oversee the financial performance of the school, making sure its money is well spent.

Bede Burn Primary School has been through significant changes over this past academic year, from the impact of Covid-19 and the appointment of a new Executive Head Teacher, Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Manager to the school.

The Governing Body are excited with the embryonic senior leadership team and their direction and vision for the school. Helen Smith (Executive Headteacher) and Marie Todd (Deputy Headteacher) have worked collaboratively with Bede Burn staff and Governors to respond to Covid-19 pandemic.

**The School Improvement Plan (SIP):** Bede Burn Governors work in co-operation with the Head Teacher and Senior Management in the writing and monitoring of the SIP. The SIP is monitored and reviewed termly, with an evaluation overview being completed and presented to governors through regular internal and external reports.

The School Improvement Plan for 2021-2022 has now been defined and the key areas for the coming academic year are as follows:

**1. Quality of Education**

How can we ensure the school's curriculum is coherently planned and sequenced towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning and employment?

**2. Quality of Education**

How can we ensure our curriculum is successfully adapted, designed or developed to be ambitious and meet with the needs of pupils with SEND, developing their knowledge skills and abilities to apply what they know and can do with increasing fluency and independence?

**3. Behaviour and Attitudes**

How will we ensure our pupils are committed to their learning, know how to study effectively and do so, are resilient to setbacks and take pride in their achievements?

**4. Personal Development**

How can we develop and deepen pupils understanding of the fundamental British values of democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law, mutual respect and tolerance?

**5. Leadership and Management**

How can we continue to build the capacity of the leadership team and governance to ensure a high-quality education for all pupils?

**6. Early Years**

How can we effectively implement the new development matters curriculum for early years to ensure the best outcomes for our children and ensure they are prepared for the next steps in their education?

**Scheme of Delegation:** Please refer to the scheme of delegation in relation to the various committees that each Governor is responsible for - linked on our website in the governors section: <http://www.bedeburnprimary.co.uk/governors-information/>

**Link Governor Roles:** Please refer to the current link governor table in relation to the various link governor areas that each governor is responsible for - linked on our website in the governors section: <http://www.bedeburnprimary.co.uk/governors-information/>

**Health & Safety:** The governing board have a responsibility for the 4 key areas of Health and Safety. These are:

- Duty of care;
- Safe place of work;
- Clear communications;
- Risk assessments.

We need to manage H&S for Legal, Moral and Financial outcomes. The key responsibilities for Governors are:

- To have a H&S governor;
- To ratify H&S policies and procedures;
- To carry out inspections and audits;
- To ensure compliance with H&S procedures;
- To ensure school reports acts of violence and accidents;
- To have a risk register with control measures;
- To oversee responsible guardianship for H&S.

The Local Authority and Governors are responsible for:

- Right level of insurance;
- H&S policy that is communicated to all staff;
- To appoint a competent person;
- Training and information;
- A safe place to work;
- Keeping up to date with H&S changes;
- Risk assessments.

During COVID 19 Helen Smith has produced a comprehensive Risk Assessment that covered all areas of school, inside and outside. This was ratified by us as governors, the Local Authority and our trade unions. Helen is continually following the government guidelines to keep abreast of changes and ensure all risk assessments are up-to-date and compliant.

**Policies:** As governors we are responsible for the development of and implementation of policies which play a vital role in ensuring the effectiveness of the school and its staff in meeting its obligations to its pupils, parents and other stakeholders. We ensure that policies are regularly scrutinised and updated to reflect national expectations and government legislation.

**Finances:** As governors we ensure that we set and regularly monitor the current and three-year budget of the school, to ensure that monies are utilised correctly to provide best value to our school working against the Schools Financial Value Standards.

**Covid-19:** Staff and Governors are all aware that the return to school following lockdown will present specific pastoral challenges as we seek to support children as they adjust to changes in the delivery of their education and ensuring their safety and that of our staff.

**Future Plans:** The year ahead will come with a number of challenges around the development of the embryonic senior leadership team, continuing response to the Covid-19 pandemic as well as ensuring our school is fully compliant against the new Ofsted framework and we have a deep, rich sequential curriculum.

The new curriculum and formulation of the School Improvement Plan will result in reallocation of Link Governor roles to ensure we continue to act as the critical friend of the school, acting objectively to ensure each of these areas deliver against that plan.

As Governors we undertake not only scrutiny of the school, but also of ourselves. We have a calendar of scheduled meetings and link visits, and in addition attend committee meetings and convene special meetings as and when required. As Governors we will continue to serve our school.