



## **MORTIMER PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **GOVERNOR STATEMENT**

The Governing Board of Mortimer Primary School works with the Head Teacher to promote and maintain high standards of educational achievement. The core functions of the Governing Board are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school making sure its funding is well spent.

#### **Key issues that have faced the Governing Board during 2020-2021**

##### **COVID-19**

The start of the academic year 2020 continued to bring an unprecedented challenge to education with the COVID19 pandemic. School remained open to all pupils during the second lockdown in November however in January, schools were closed to the majority of pupils and open only to 'Key worker' and vulnerable children as outlined by the Government for the third lockdown. Staff delivered education remotely. The Chair of Governors has taken part in weekly conference calls with the Local Authority. The Governing Board has supported the Head Teacher and Senior Management and staff throughout the closure and lockdown period.

Governors have held a virtual meeting to consider issues relating to COVID and to approve the relevant Risk Assessments implemented to ensure the safe continuation of teaching. The Governing Board supported the Head Teacher in decision making around:

- Maximum numbers of children who could safely return to the partial opening in January 2021
- Start and end times of the day.
- Lunchtime arrangements.
- Cleaning measures
- Staff and pupil welfare checks
- Safeguarding of pupils

##### **School Development Plan**

The Governing Board continue to support the Head Teacher and Senior Management Team in the monitoring the School Development Plan (SDP). The School Development Plan sets aims for the forthcoming 3 years. The current SDP is based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and review meetings with subject leaders. The SDP is set out with clear development targets and key tasks which will be completed in order to measure outcomes. The SDP is monitored and reviewed regularly. Key priorities for 2020-2021 were identified as:

- To raise the profile of reading across the school promoting enjoyment and an improved understanding of a range of texts.
- To support the Mental Health and Wellbeing of pupils following their return to school after lockdown (Covid-19).
- To develop the Enhanced Curriculum to build on each child's cultural capital.
- To create a supportive and robust assessment package that enables teachers to confidently monitor the progress of every pupil.
- To provide a curriculum to close gaps which have been widened due to lockdown.
- To develop remote education so that it is integrated into school curriculum planning.

### **Governor visits**

Link governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SDP. These visits are considered a valuable opportunity for governors to be able to work closely with staff members. The timetabled visits have been disrupted this year.

- Virtual meetings have been held with the subject lead and the link governor for English and Science and reports shared with governors.

### **Data analysis**

Data is made available to Governing Board through termly meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions with the head teacher. Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium. With the cancelling of statutory testing in 2020, Governors will be placing scrutiny on teacher assessment.

### **Policies**

The Governing Board reviews all relevant policies at appropriate intervals to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date. Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education statutory policy list and the Local Authority recommended list.

### **Finance**

The impact of the governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and improvements are effective and continuous.

### **Assessment of the impact of the Governing Board on the school during 2020-2021**

The Governing Board bring a wide variety of expertise to the school to help ensure the school is moving forward and continually seeks improvement to the provision of education at our school. Taking a holistic outlook when considering the development of all our pupils and working closely with the Head Teacher, Senior Management Team and all members of staff, the Governing Board is constantly striving to improve and develop the school in all areas.

The relationship between the Governing Board, the Senior Management Team, and staff is based on trust, respect and support. The results of which are outstanding education for the children attending our school. This continues to serve as a highly successful model with continued improvement in pupil progress and attainment across the school.

The curriculum is continuously monitored to ensure a seamless transition between key stages and, ultimately, improve outcomes for the children. New resources have been purchased, where necessary, to enhance delivery of educational themes or specific skills. Staff meeting time has been allocated to ensure all areas are appropriately resourced and plans adjusted.

Mortimer Primary is proud to be designated by the government as a School Direct Lead School to deliver Initial Teacher Training in partnership with Harton Academy, Northumbria University and a number of local primary schools.

As a lead partner in Teach North East we have delivered training courses to ITT students on the teaching of greater depth mathematics, reading, writing, science, PE, dance , communicating with parents and working with outside agencies. Recruitment of new students for September 2021 has continued throughout lockdown. Given the constraints of COVID we are proud that trainees for this year have successfully completed their training.

The preparation and delivery of these sessions along with the advanced professional development borne out of this is a fantastic accolade for Mortimer Primary. It is also beneficial for the development of our staff and helps to promote further advances in the outstanding teaching practice at school. All of this additional work ultimately benefits the children by opening up new opportunities to learn using new techniques and ideas and continuing to make being a pupil at Mortimer Primary, a fun and exciting prospect and by supporting young children in their progress towards becoming confident, caring and responsible adults.