

Simonside Primary
Governors Annual Statement
2020 – 2021

Simonside's vision is to provide each child with a love of learning and the drive and self-belief to aim high.



During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Governing body have worked closely with school leaders to ensure all risk assessments, procedures and guidelines have been closely followed. We have offered advice to school leaders, communicating (virtually using remote platforms) and liaising regularly with SLT, including being fully involved in the writing and monitoring of the whole school risk assessment. As Governors, we have been extremely mindful of the emotional wellbeing of the Headteacher, school leaders and all staff and have offered our support throughout this difficult time.

Strategic Functions of the Governing Body

This annual statement outlines how the Governing Body has fulfilled its responsibilities and how it has met the three core strategic functions of the School's Governing Body set out by Government and the Department for Education:

- 1 Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.***
- 2 Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.***
- 3 Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.***

School Improvement Plan

The school improvement plan is a flexible working document that is communicated to all staff and stake holders. This forms the basis of targets for staff to work towards. It sets out the key priorities for the school development plan. Although this has been a difficult year and the impact of Covid has made the progress of these targets difficult, the head teacher and the rest of the school staff have been able to make some progress.

Implementation of Covid 19 recovery plan.

Pastoral interventions have been put in place.

More forest school sessions have taken place.

Increase the percentage of children achieving the expected standard in reading & writing in both KS1 & KS2.

New expectations have been set for guided reading, with a focus on stretch and challenge.

High quality texts have been bought and distributed to all year groups.

The use of Spelling Shed has been implemented across the school.

Increase in the percentage of children achieving the expected standard in maths at the end of KS2.

White Rose Maths hub has been used across the school. Gaps in learning have been identified and teaching interventions planned.

Strengthen and develop the role of the subject leader.

Action plan drawn up with each subject leader to reflect the position of their subject.

Monitoring has taken place in the autumn term and action plans updated accordingly.

Covid 19

Throughout the pandemic it has been a difficult time for both school staff and the community. Governors would like to thank all staff and the school community for all the hard work and effort gone into ensuring our children have the best possible experience, even in difficult times.

In this last lockdown period, approximately 50 children attended school throughout the period of school closures. Bubbles were organised and 2 teachers were responsible for each bubble. Remote learning was provided to all children on a daily basis, with teachers on hand to give support to those in school and virtually to those at home. On average engagement in remote learning was approximately 66% across the whole school.

On return to school, initial assessments were carried out and catch-up groups organised with support from Teaching assistants. PHSE continues to be a priority, with more time allocated in classes. Children are encouraged to share feelings and extra support is available if needed.

Staffing Changes

This past year has seen several staffing changes. We have had staff leaving on maternity and those returning from maternity leave. Mrs White left us in March to take up a post in another school. Mrs Parnaby left us at Easter, with Mrs Scott being appointed the new head full time from September 2021. The headship role is currently being shared by Mrs Scott and Mrs McBeth. Finally, Mrs Pegman is due to leave on maternity in June with Mrs Lowe being appointed as Deputy Head Teacher to cover maternity.

Even though this has been a turbulent year for everyone, there has been many changes which the governing body has had to manage, however with the support of the school staff and the school community, it has been a pleasure to have been able to guide the school through these challenging times. Even though meetings have been virtual, we have continued to:

Monitor the implementation and embedding of the national curriculum and assessment processes.

Review and monitoring of pupil performance data and progress.

Carry out budget setting, monitoring and review of school finances.

Monitor the improvement of the school learning environment, especially around remote learning.

Review school policies and documentation.

Monitor the implementation of the school development plan.