

Ashley Primary School

Annual Governor Statement 2018-19

Governors' Information and Duties.

Ashley Primary School is a large single site primary school with two form entry. We have an admission number of 60 pupils for years 1 to 6. We also have reception, nursery and the Ashley Child Development Centre.

Ours is a popular school, consequently we are always at, or close to, our maximum number of pupils across each year group. When vacancies do occur and where, for example families with primary age children move into the Borough, the LEA forwards applications to the school. The Head Teacher notifies the Chair of Governors of any in-year admissions and governors are informed at the next available meeting.

We also like to think of Ashley Primary School as being a welcoming and happy school. This is evident when standing in the school yard as children arrive in the morning and seeing them smile when they see their friends, classmates and staff. Parents appear to meet friends, old and new, with a smile and have a 'natter'. Some governors, especially parent governors, chat with parents at arrival and leaving times and if any issues are raised, signpost them to the appropriate person.

Our pupils are drawn from a broad spectrum. In 2018-19, overall 28% of pupils across the school were disadvantaged - twice the national average. This figure rose to over 40% for our year 6 pupils who sat their KS2 SATS tests this was twice the LA average and 3 times the National average. We also had several pupils join the school for whom English was a second language. Governors consider school performance data in detail at the Autumn termly meeting and steps being taken to address areas of concern.

As a step to ensuring that our pupils can get the best out of school, we fastidiously follow up on absence by contacting parents; and staff challenge lateness by meeting parents as they bring their child in through the main entrance. Our attendance was 94.4% and the number of persistently late pupils was reduced. In those instances where parents remove their child from school in term time to take a holiday, they are referred on to the LEA. Attendance and lateness are discussed at the termly meetings of the Governing Body.

Throughout the year we have class assemblies; special event assemblies and we celebrate Christmas and Easter. We also have regular presentation assemblies where children are recognised and acknowledged for achievement: The Chair of Governors and/or The Vice-Chair frequently attend to make the presentations. Governors have an open invitation to attend one or more of these, but they are asked to notify the head in advance so that numbers can be managed. The Head Teacher arranges for each year group to have a class assembly where children can be presented with certificates of merit for reading, or writing, or science, etc.

Ashley Primary School is not a 'New Build' school, it is an old-style prefabricated building in which every inch of space is used for the benefit of pupils and staff. nevertheless, it is a vibrant school. Just walking in to either school yard on a morning the children's behaviour demonstrates that they are looking forward to the new school day and when the bell goes, the children hurry into school.

As the Governing Board of Ashley Primary School, we work closely with Mrs Todd, 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;
- To hold 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 used effectively to ensure good value for money.

We were last inspected by Ofsted on the 6th February 2018: we were graded Requires Improvement. Subsequent to the publication of the report on 2nd March 2018 we were required to work with the School Support and Monitoring Group. (SSMG). This involved visits to our school by the SSMG who then met with the Head Teacher and the Chair of Governors to discuss their findings.

The Ofsted report and SSMG meetings impacted on The School Development Plan (SDP) and the subsequent Self Evaluation Form (SEF) for 2018-19. Regrettably, the work undertaken throughout the school has not been reflected in test performance in all areas in the 2018-19 test cycle. As a governing body we shall be discussing the 2018-19 test results at both our September Curriculum & Standards Committee and then at the Autumn Termly meeting of the Full Governing Board. Then together with the School Management Team (SMT), Governors will work to develop a new/revised SDP to improve outcomes across the school: especially those at Key Stage 2 and for disadvantaged pupils across the school, and that these developments are embraced by the staff. In 2019-20, Governors will monitor more closely how our Pupil Premium funding is spent and its impact.

As individual Governors we will continue to hold a LINK responsibility for at least one subject area. Link Governors meet with the member of staff responsible for their curriculum area on a termly basis and provide a written report for the Governing board. With the support of the Head Teacher we have a termly Governors week when governors come into the school and follow a timetable agreed with the Head Teacher which allows them to visit/call in to classrooms and provide a non-judgemental report on what they saw. Most Governors use this week to undertake their termly link visit.

Throughout the year the Governing Body has sought to be supportive, strategic and to provide challenge that is acknowledged as being justifiably appropriate in helping the school to focus on actions, impact, and outcomes.

In addition to standard agenda items, during the year Governors discussed a range of issues e.g:

- An update on the 'Accelerated Reading Scheme'. Governors were informed that it was proving to be beneficial to the children who enjoyed the selection of books available and that they had some autonomy over the books that they could select. Governors who had observed the scheme in use were complimentary.
- The need for updating IT equipment used by pupils and teachers was discussed and it was agreed that this could be processed provided due diligence was taken. A member of staff was nominated to investigate the range of equipment available and the costs and bring these to the Governors. Subsequently, and after the Head Teacher confirmed that the budget could meet the cost, Governors agreed the replacement of equipment.

A frequent item on the agenda at our termly meetings is a Policy Review. Copies of Policies that need to be reviewed or adopted are forwarded to governors by the LEA Clerk to the Governors in advance of the meeting.

- At our Autumn termly meeting held on the 11th October 2018 we reviewed/adopted the following policies:
 - Safeguarding Policy
 - Carers Policy
 - Childcare Salary Sacrifice Scheme
 - Compassionate Leave Policy
 - ERVR Policy
 - Eyesight Test Policy
 - Leave Policy
 - Leavers Policy
 - Maternity Leave Policy and Appendices
 - Parental Leave Policy
 - Probationary Leave Policy
 - Reserve Forces Policy and Appendices
 - Stuck Not Sick Policy
- At the Autumn termly meeting we also received Reports from the Corporate Director of Children, Adults and Health:
 - SEND Strategy update
 - 0-19 Services and Integrated Hubs for Families
 - Pupil Admission Arrangements: September 2020
- At our Summer termly meeting held on the 6th June 2019 we reviewed/adopted the following policies:
 - Pay Protection Policy
 - Disciplinary Policy and Procedure
 - Severe Weather Policy
 - Volunteer Policy
 - Flexible Working Policy
 - Leavers Policy

- Maternity Policy
- Compassionate Leave Policy
- Absence Management Policy

Composition of the Governing Board:

The Head Teacher
 1 Local Education Authority representative
 1 Staff representative
 2 Parents (elected)
 5 Co-opted (nominated)

Committees of the Governing Board

Curriculum & Standards
 Resources
 Ethics

Chair of Governors: Mr John Terence Haram
 Vice Chair of Governors: Mrs Julie Dawson
 Chair of Curriculum & Standards: Mr Colin Stenburge
 Chair of Resources: Mr Mark Meade
 Chair of Ethics: Chair or Vice Chair as appropriate

In 2018-19 there were 3 termly meetings that involve all governors, and 5 sub-committee meetings. Overall attendance at meetings was 76% - against a planned target of 80%. Four of our governors resigned owing to work/other commitments. A parent governor position created by a resignation was filled following a ballot of parents. A second was filled by another parent who had previously stood for election whom we co-opted to the board. The third vacancy was filled by co-opting the Head Teacher for a neighbouring school. Currently we are carrying vacancies which may be filled in the next academic year.

The Head Teacher provided a comprehensive report to Governors at each termly meeting. Standard items included: Ofsted Action Plan update along with the School Development Plan; staffing, pupil roll, whole school development, curriculum, SEND, Pupil Premium, Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Finance.

The Head Teacher provided an Annual Report for the previous academic year to Governors at the summer termly meeting.

Despite the pressure of testing across the school cohort the National Curriculum is adhered to appropriate to the year group. In addition to the National Curriculum we offer a range of extra-curricular activities from reception to year 6. These include: multi skills; gym/dance; knitting; school council; golf; athletics; code club; judo; guitar; rugby; drama; volleyball; boxercise; football; girls' football; choir.

We also offer our year 6 pupils before and after school clubs including: art; cookery; textiles; ICT; spelling; film. These are well subscribed by the children.

This report was written by The Chair of Governors: J T Haram: MA; Cert Ed (FE); Research Fellow UNN.

REGISTER OF GOVERNOR INTERESTS

ASHLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Name	Position	Nature of Interest	Date Interest Registered	Date Interest Ceased	Notes
John T Haram	Co-opted	None	06-06-2019		
Julie Dawson	Co-opted	None	06-06-2019		
Claire Steehouder	Co-opted	None	06-06-2019		
Dave Borrel	Co-opted	Head, Parkview School	09-07-2019		
Colin Stenburge	Co-opted	None	06-06-2019		
Cllr Gladys Hobson	LEA	LEA Governor, Parkview School	06-06-2019		
Mark Meade	Parent	None	06-06-2019		
Rachel Dagg	Parent	None	06-06-2019		
Denise Todd	Head Teacher	None	06-06-2019		
Steven Bell	Staff Governor (All)	None	06-06-2019		
Cheryl MacDonald	Co-opted	Resigned 31.12.18			
Terry Moody	Co-opted	Resigned 31.12.18			
Ann Rowston	Co-opted	Resigned 31.12.18			
Cllr Norman Dick	Co-opted	Resigned 31.09.18			

Date of Review: 1 September 2019

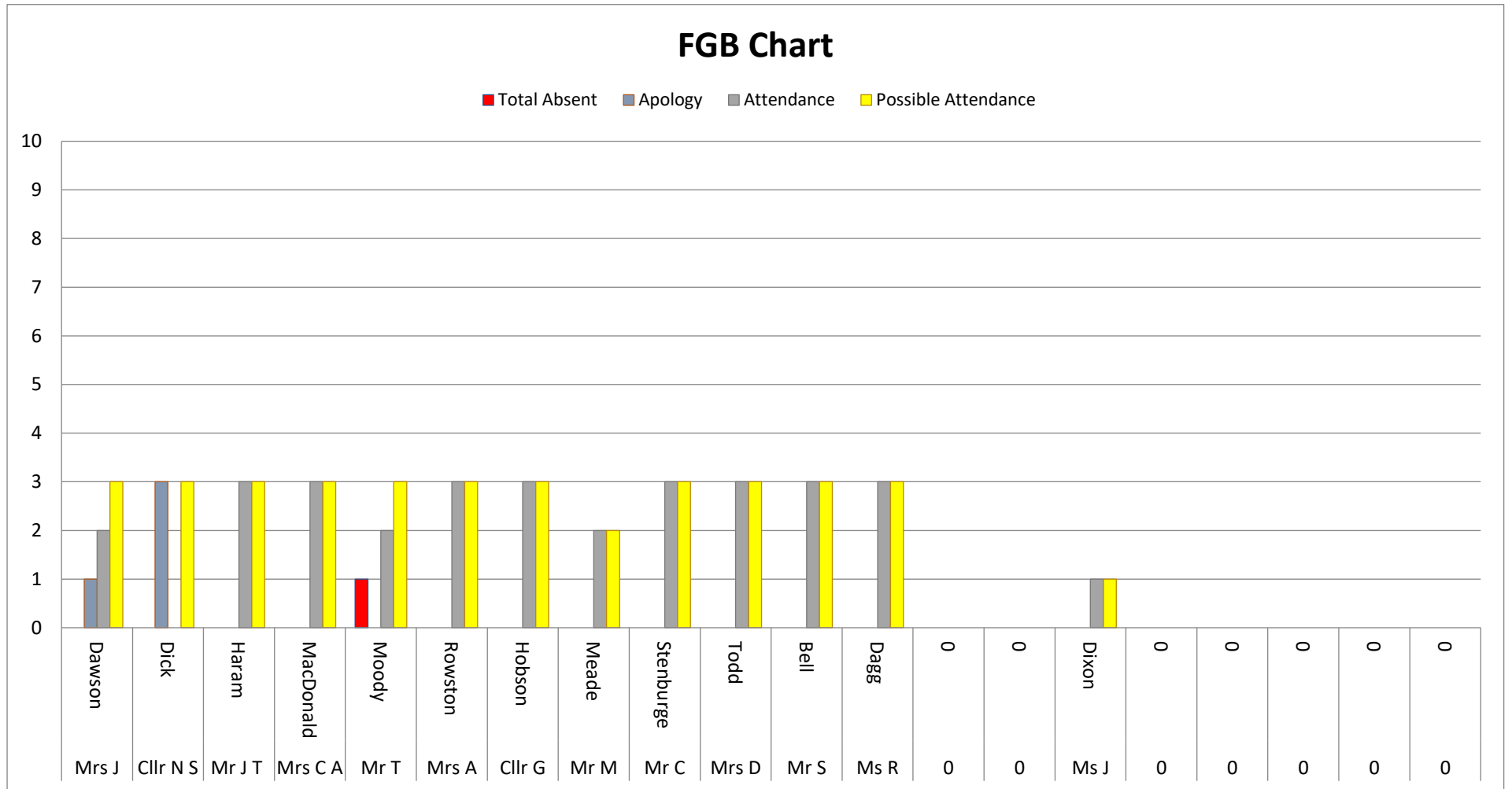
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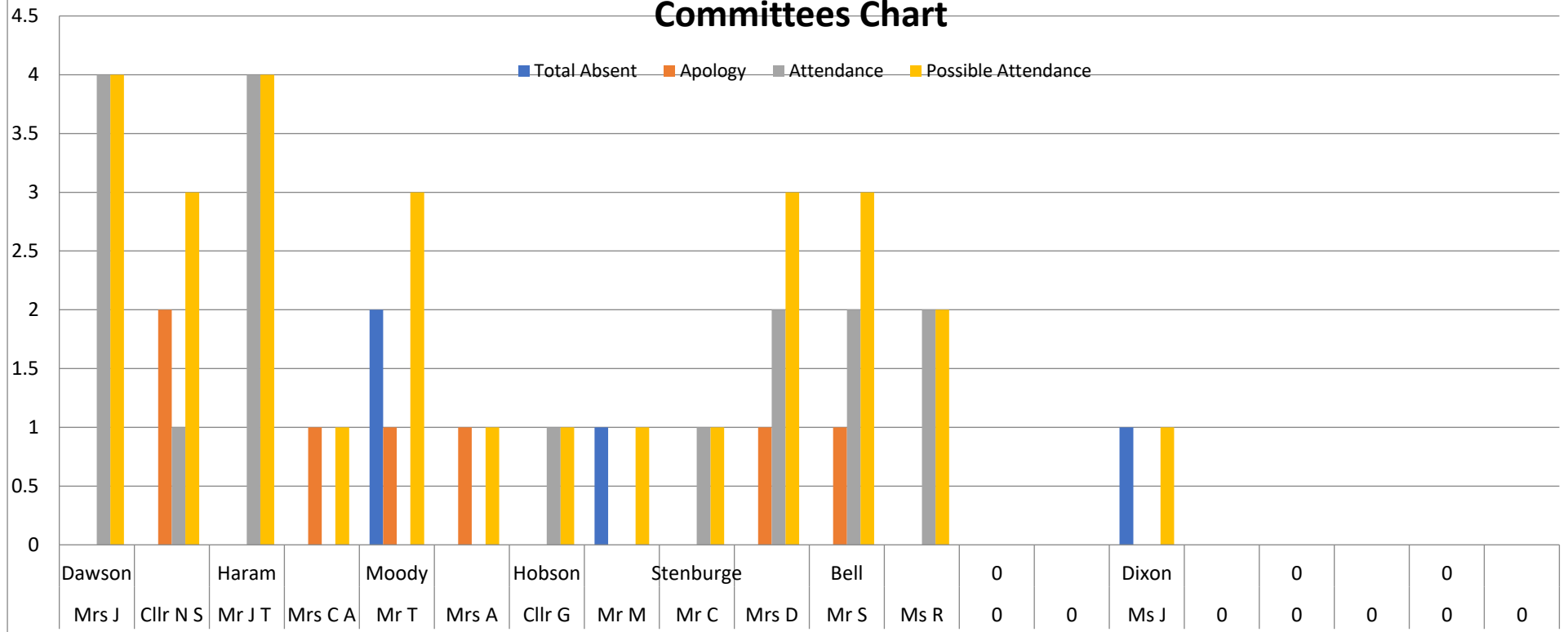
Name	Category	Appointing Board	Terms of Office	Committees (if associate member has voting rights)	Official responsibility
John Terence Haram	C0-Opted	Governing Board	01/01/19 - 31/12/22	Curriculum & Standards Committee Resources Committee	Chair of Governors
Julie Dawson	Co-Opted	Governing Board	01/01/19 - 31/12/22	Curriculum & Standards Committee Resources Committee	Vice Chair of Governors
Claire Steehouder	Co-Opted	Governing Board	11/10/18 - 10/10/22	Resources Committee	
Dave Borrel	Co-Opted	Governing Board	09/09/19 – 08/09/23		
Colin Stenburge	Co-opted	Governing Board	19/10/2017 - 18/10/2021	Curriculum & Standards Committee	Chair of Curriculum and Standards Sub-committee.
Cllr Gladys Hobson	LEA	Local Education Authority	28/06/2016 - 27/06/20	Resources Committee	
Rachael Dagg	Parent	Parents/Governing Board	01-10-2017 - 30-09-2021	Curriculum & Standards Committee	
Mark Meade	Parent	Parents/Governing Board	13-11-2017 - 12-11-2021	Resources Committee	Chair of Resources Sub-committee.
Denise Todd	Head Teacher	By Virtue of Position	01/09/07-	Curriculum & Standards Committee Resources Committee	
Steven Bell	Staff	Staff	05-6-2018 - 04-6-2022	Curriculum & Standards Committee	

Date of Review: 1st September 2019
(Data Supplied by LEA)

Attendance 2017/18



Committees Chart



Total GB Attendance

