

**HIGHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL
LOCAL GOVERNING BOARD (LGB) ANNUAL STATEMENT 2023**

1. THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Governor Name	Governor Category	Start Date	End date
Jenny Bullock	Academy Governor	02/11/2022	01/11/2026
Lynsey Briddock	Academy Governor	01/09/2019	31/08/2023
Sarah Eden	Academy Governor	17/11/2021	10/11/2025
Caroline Gibbs	Academy Governor	TBC	TBC
Colin Harwood	Academy Governor	05/10/2021	04/10/2025
Jenny Jewitt	Staff Governor	22/03/2023	12/03/2027
David Leat	Link Director	TCLT board	
Lynn Liss	Academy Governor	17/11/2021	10/11/2025
Charlotte Mountford	Parent Governor	12/10/2022	11/10/2026
Ann Moore	Academy Governor	08/04/2022	07/04/2026
Richard Oades	Headteacher	01/09/2019	N/A
Sarah Eden	Resigned		
Stuart Rutherford-Orrock	Resigned		
Vickie Norton	Resigned		

2. ATTENDANCE

Governors attend six Local Governing Body (LGB) meetings each academic year. In addition, each Governor is allocated to a specific monitoring area (Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes, Quality of Education and Leadership and Management) and are visit the school throughout the year as part of the LGB's monitoring schedule and school development plan. The attendance of those Governors appointed by the Academy is detailed on our school website. Please click [here](#) to view this information.

3. EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT OF THE BOARD What is the board there for?

Governors have three main roles:

- The Governors are responsible for ensuring the school provides a high-quality education for all its pupils. It does this by monitoring the effectiveness of the school in specific key areas. They are also responsible for ensuring the school is compliant in implementing the policies of the Tyne Community Learning Trust (Multi-Academy Trust).
- The Governors are responsible for ensuring that the school complies with the statutory guidance for Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSE).
- The Governors provide support for the staff and pupils, as and when appropriate.

What does Governing Body do?

The Governors met formally six times during the school year. However, Governors frequently visit the school to attend special occasions, to appoint staff and to monitor the teaching and other aspects of the school. With the restrictions of COVID lifted, the Governors were able to complete a full set of monitoring visits, in relation to Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes, Quality of Education and Leadership and Management. A

monitoring visit has also been undertaken to review the school's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision and Safeguarding Procedures.

What has the Governing Body done that has worked well?

All Governors' meetings have been held in-person with an excellent record of attendance. In many cases these meetings started with a talk from a member of the teaching staff, and this has provided Governors with an understanding of the principles underlying the curriculum. Training sessions for new Governors, for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and for keeping children safe, have been provided via the Tyne Community Learning Trust (TCLT). These sessions were excellent and particularly informative for our new Governors.

The Governors have improved their understanding of the school's performance via the self-evaluation survey, SATS results and pupil progress data. The Governors also have a clear understanding of the requirements set out in the "Keeping Children Safe in Education" document, published by the Department of Education. The Governors have undertaken a safeguarding audit and have discussed the outcome in detail at a Board meeting. Pupils are aware of what safeguarding is and they feel safe in school. School assemblies have dealt with topical themes, including knife crime, river safety, staying safe on-line and bullying.

Discussion of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) is an ongoing activity that has been discussed in detail at several meetings throughout the school year.

How effective is the Governing Body as a group?

Although there has been some turnover, the Governing Body has generally been stable throughout the current school year. Individual members of the Board have specific skill sets within education, business, and the community and this has helped the group to challenge the headteacher and staff in relation to their areas of responsibility. There is a good working relationship among the group and with the headteacher and staff. Governors are appreciative of the strong support they have received from both the Headteacher and the school's Support Officer. The group has produced detailed monitoring visit reports, and these have been discussed at the Board meetings.

What are the key aims for the next 12 months?

The Covid pandemic has impacted nationally on school children and Governors are aware of the impact on children at Highfield. Although attendance is good and above the national average, it is lower than at pre-Covid times. There is a general increase in anxiety among children, and some are still trying to catch up on their studies. The school has now appointed a Family Support Worker and there will be an increased emphasis on parental engagement. The former caretaker's house near the main gate – now referred to as "The Bungalow" – will be a focus for some of these activities. The return of face-to-face parent evenings and celebration events are also helping to increase parent engagement, together with expanding the Bromcom "My child at school" App.

Ms Kennedy, the new School Improvement Partner, introduced herself to the Governors at a recent Board meeting, and we look forward to working with her and the Headteacher on developing and implementing the School Improvement Plan. Governors will continue to monitor the main areas in which Ofsted will assess the school (*i.e.*, Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes, Quality of Education and Leadership and

Management), following on from the good start made in the current school year. Finally, the Governors will review the school's equality objectives to ensure they are fit for purpose in a rapidly changing world.

The school is currently assessed as "Good" by Ofsted, and the School Improvement Partner, Governors, Headteacher and Staff will work towards achieving an "Outstanding" assessment in the longer term.

4. CHALLENGES OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS

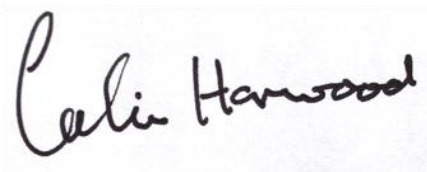
Covid has impacted on the education of the children and the school's Covid Recovery Plan has been implemented to support all the children, and especially those most badly affected. This has increased the pressure on staff, who have responded well to the challenge. The pupil's behaviour in school continues to be good, and Governors report that they engage well with staff and visitors and are confident in expressing their opinions.

There have been several changes to the Governing Board during the school year. Sarah Eden stepped down and we thank her for all her support and hard work as an Academy Governor. Mr Rutherford-Orrock resigned from his teaching post at the school, and we wish him the very best for the future. He was replaced as a staff Governor by Mrs Jewitt, the school manager. Charlotte Mountford joined as a parent Governor, replacing Vickie Norton. Ms Bullock, Headteacher at Ovingham Middle School, joined as an academy Governor and provides the school with the opportunity to share good practice. Ms Gibbs, Deputy Headteacher, recently joined the Board as an Academy Governor. We are hoping to appoint a second parent Governor for the start of the next school year.

5. STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD

Despite the challenges of the last three years, the school has maintained high standards of education and care among its pupils. The Governors express their gratitude to staff for their work in maintaining these standards. However, the Governors also recognise that the longer-term implications of Covid, in relation to the pupils' education, mental health and social skills, have not disappeared, and we will continue to work with the staff to address these issues.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Harwood". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light grey rectangular box.

On behalf of the Governing body

Date: 2/09/2023