



Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Escomb Primary School 2023

School Vision/Mission Statement

'Growing and Learning Together'

As a school we work in close partnership with families and the whole community to give children the best possible start to their education.

Our mission is to create a safe, caring and stimulating environment in which every child has the opportunity to reach the highest levels of achievement of which they are capable in all aspects of learning. We aim to develop children's confidence and their motivation and desire to learn.

We will do this through planning and delivering a wide range of creative, challenging and effective learning opportunities that meet the needs of all our children.

We will promote a positive school ethos based on mutual respect and the understanding of rights and responsibilities. We want everyone to feel welcome and safe at school.

We will promote local, national and international links to develop a deeper understanding and respect for the diverse world in which we live and prepare our children to function well as global citizens of the future.

As a school community we will work together to create a happy, healthy, safe and caring environment in which learning can take place with enjoyment.

The Governing Body of Escomb Primary School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Escomb Primary School was re-constituted in 2014 and is made up of 2 staff governors (including the Headteacher), 3 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 4 Co-opted governors. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

The full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. At Escomb Primary we have a Finance Committee, which focuses on finance and premises; a Curriculum Committee, a Personnel Committee and a Pay and Review Committee amongst others. We also have committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

Governor Attendance

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because we have not been quorate.

Meetings:

Full governing body meeting every term.

Committees meet at least termly to discuss issues in further depth and to agree on policies and practice.

For each committee we have developed our terms of reference to meet the needs of the school.

A code of conduct for governors has been reviewed and agreed.

Governors all have special responsibilities and visit classes to improve their knowledge and understanding of their areas. It also allows them to see the impact of the strategic decisions made by governors. Governors complete reports which are presented at full governing body meetings.

We review our Skills Assessment regularly and our outcomes are being used to identify gaps in the governing body.

Finance

Our finance committee meets at least once a term. Governors have accessed training re budget management. The budget statement is agreed by this committee in consultation with the HT. The Oracle statement is considered and any discrepancies discussed. The school office manager keeps governors informed about projects and spending. Minutes from meetings are shared with all governors. Questions which challenge are highlighted.

Training for governors

Governors are encouraged to attend the LA training events to become better informed and more able to support and challenge the school. Individual governor's access training on a needs basis linked to their governor roles and responsibilities on each committee.

Achievement

Key priorities:

To ensure the curriculum is structured, well developed and inclusive for all

To increase the proportion of pupils achieving higher levels

To ensure children with SEND make appropriate progress across all areas

To ensure that the rate of pupil progress is consistently good and better across all cohorts and for all groups of learners in Maths

Special interest governors continue to monitor all aspects of the above improvements.

Quality of Teaching

Key priority:

- To ensure that the quality of teaching is good or better and an increasing amount is outstanding.

Governors are kept informed about the quality of teaching and learning by leaders. We know that a rigorous monitoring plan is followed which includes lesson observations, work scrutiny, learning walks and talking to children.

High expectations are expected of all teachers and staff within the school.- Termly data sheets are shared at full gov body meetings which show the attainment and progress of all cohorts, SEN, PP and gender groups. We challenge underperformance.

Govs agreed on the standard marking policy and scheme which is used across the school. It is monitored and reviewed to ensure children understand how to improve their work.

Behaviour and safety

Key priority:

- To promote outstanding behaviour and safety

We have reviewed relevant policies and ensured that all training for safeguarding is up to date.

2 Governors have attended safeguarding level 1 training.

4 Governors (including 2 staff governors) have completed safer recruitment training.

Attendance is reported on and reviewed at full GB meetings and issues around absences are discussed.

Leadership & Management

Key priorities:

- To build the capacity for leadership at all levels across the school
- To monitor implementation of the new primary curriculum.
- To provide an outstanding learning environment that meets the needs of the pupils, staff and school community.

As a Governing Body we have become more involved in monitoring all aspects of school improvement this year.

Governors are improving their knowledge and understanding of key school documents; SIP, SSE, Raise on Line including increased use of Governor Hub and The Key.

Governors visit the school to monitor their areas and this is to develop further this next year.

Assessment of Impact

Impact on Achievement:

EYFS provides an excellent start for children at Escomb School.

Read, Write Inc is resulting in improvements in reading data and in outcomes for spelling/ phonics at key stage 1. Reciprocal reading is having a positive impact on attitudes to reading in KS2.

Impact on Quality of Teaching:

We are kept well informed through the HT report about the quality of teaching and plans are being set to ensure that there is consistency across the whole school.

Impact on Behaviour & Safety:

Monitoring of behaviour across the school has enabled governors to prioritise spending on resources etc to support positive behaviour in school and to improve systems and routines.

Health & safety governor is aware of issues relating to building and is able to prioritise spending accordingly whilst sitting on the Finance Committee.

Impact on Leadership & Management:

Governors are satisfied that Leadership in School is continuing to improve and we are confident that the forthcoming year will show continued development and effectiveness amongst the team.

As a governing Body we are planning to be more involved in the monitoring process and have a clearer picture of school Improvement issues. This will support strengthened leadership and enabled the Governors to play a more critical, informed role in driving school improvement.

Future plans for the Governing Body

Governors have identified the following actions to improve their effectiveness which will be share at the next FGB meeting in Jan 24.

Govs to be more involved in SEF.

Develop the monitoring role of governors further.

Identify training needs

Continue to develop relationships between staff and governors through monitoring meetings.

Become more visible as governors in school

Review our committee membership

Appoint a well-being Governor

Contact Details

The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers.

Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school office.

Details of the full Governing Body are on the school website.