



The Governing Body of Conway Primary School Annual Governance Statement 2019-20

The Governors of Conway Primary School have retained a strong focus on the Governing Body's 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;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance Arrangements	<p>The full governing body meets once each term with three committees - Learning and Achievement, Finance and Personnel and School and Community Development reporting to it after their termly meetings. Each committee has a Terms of Reference with clearly delegated areas of responsibility. All governing body meetings are professionally clerked by the Local Authority's Governor Services with the approved minutes being retained by the School Business Manager.</p> <p>Governors are linked to specific areas of the curriculum or aspects of the school or pupil need. Governors undertake regular monitoring visits providing feedback to their colleagues through a verbal and written report at governing body meetings.</p> <p>A list of governors is available on the governing body page of the school website together with their individual responsibilities. Attendance at meetings is very good (an attendance grid is also available on the governing body page on the school website).</p>
Key issues addressed by the governing body 2019-20	<p>The governing body has fulfilled its statutory duties in terms of monitoring all areas of the school's delivery including the curriculum, Safeguarding, Health and Safety and the budget. It has provided support and challenge to the school, working with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and other staff to maximise the outcomes for pupils. However, the year has been dominated by the Covid pandemic and as a result the scale of the governing body's activities has been greatly reduced and/or reprioritised. Covid-19 has seen the school close to most of our pupils for over four months and this has created a unique environment for the school and the governing body. This included adopting new arrangements by which the governors performed their role especially the use of on-line meetings (Zoom)</p>

	<p>While health and safety and the wellbeing of our pupils and staff are at the forefront of the governors' role, 2020 has been this increase to a whole new level of importance. We have supported the school's response to the pandemic and performed our monitoring role by focusing in how the school ensured that the premises remained a safe environment for our vulnerable pupils and children of key workers who remained on site and the staff who were responsible for them while they were at school.</p> <p>It was the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure the school provided learning opportunities to all our pupils whether they were at school or at home. The governors did however remotely monitored the school's provision and the revised on-line delivery platform.</p> <p>The governors monitored the school's approach to safeguarding during the lockdown to ensure we were able to have evidence that the school was maintaining his normal high standards despite Covid-19. The governors also monitored the school's communications with parents to ensure it maintained usual high quality during a very unusual time for the school and country more generally.</p> <p>The governors met regularly during the summer term to review and endorse the school's Covid-19 risk assessment, both for the part-return during the term and the updated assessment which was necessary to allow the school to reopen to all pupils from September.</p> <p>Despite the challenges the governors continued to maintain their role in monitor the budget including incorporating unexpected spending requirements resulting from the demands of Covid-19.</p>
<p>Assessment of Impact (Details available in the governing body minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's short/medium-term financial stability has been maintained within an uncertain funding environment • The focus governors had placed on developing the school communications especially through social media over the recent years had a real impact during a period where clarity was at a premium. • We judged that the school's safeguarding procedures were appropriately adjusted to reflect the needs of the pupils during Covid-19. • From the feedback received it was clear that the school successfully managed staff wellbeing during the Covid-19 period • The recently introduced corporate risk register has enabled the school to take a more strategic approach to risk management playing an important role during Covid-19
<p>Future plans for 2020-21</p>	<p>Due to Covid-19, the governing body was unable to deliver its plans as set out in the 2019-20 statement. The objectives however remain valid so they will be carried to 2020-21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to maximise pupil outcomes including those in receipt of pupil premium funding • Continue to ensure the school budget is used effectively within an uncertain financial environment • Increase stakeholder engagement • Increase the impact the local community has on the school and the pupils

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reinvigorate the programme of governors monitoring visits• Develop opportunities to work in soft-partnerships with other schools/governing bodies• Increase the impact of CPD on the work of the governing body• Induct new governors to ensure they are able to contribute quickly to the work of the governing body
Contact Details	The governing body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from the school community and beyond. Please contact the Chair of Governors at governors@conway.greenwich.sch.uk or through the school.