



## The Governing Body of Conway Primary School Annual Governance Statement 2020-21

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.

<p><b>Governance Arrangements</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Key issues addressed by the governing body 2020-21</b></p>	<p>Throughout the year, the work of the governing body has again been dominated by Covid. This has meant that the governing body has adapted its role to meet the new environment, while maintaining its ability to fulfil statutory duties. The nature of the governors' role in monitoring the school's performance has changed but it has still remained focused on the curriculum, Safeguarding, Wellbeing, Health and Safety and the budget. The governing body has provided support and challenge to the school, working with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and other staff to maximise the outcomes for pupils. Although the governors have not been able to visit the school it has made effective use of online contact and meetings.</p> <p>The governors have monitored the delivery and impact of on-line learning</p>

	<p>as well as the provision for those pupils who were on the school premises.</p> <p>While safeguarding and wellbeing has always been at the forefront of the governors responsibilities, this year has seen this become even more important due to the limited direct access to pupils and the heightened wellbeing challenges for both pupils and staff due to Covid. We have therefore worked with the Headteacher and SLT to ensure existing procedures were successfully adapted for the Covid response.</p> <p>Key to maintaining Health and Safety at the school has been the Covid risk assessment, which set out the procedures for managing the safety of the whole school community when the school was fully open. The governors worked closely with the Headteacher and SLT to ensure the procedures set out in the risk assessment were appropriately adopted and they were adjusted in line with changing advice and in-house experience. The governors also monitored the school's communications with parents to ensure it was successfully maintained during a very unusual time for the school, and where it was not always possible to provide the clarity that would normally be the case.</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.</p>
<p><b>Assessment of Impact</b> <b>(Details available in the governing body minutes)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The on-line provision delivered during lockdown and the learning that took place when the school was fully open has helped reduce the impact on pupil outcomes but the legacy of Covid is likely to remain with the school for some considerable time to come.</li> <li>• All Covid related incidents were successfully managed by the school despite the need to demonstrate considerable flexibility to meet evolving and uncertain requirements.</li> <li>• The school's short/medium-term financial stability has been maintained within an uncertain funding environment including plans to reduce energy costs by approving a new supplier contract – although this did not proceed due to the subsequent global energy crisis.</li> <li>• The school's safeguarding procedures remained strong and were appropriately adjusted to reflect the needs of the pupils during Covid.</li> <li>• From staff feedback, it was clear that the school successfully managed staff and pupil wellbeing during this uncertain period.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Future plans for 2021-22</b></p>	<p>Due to Covid, the governing body was unable to deliver many of its plans set out in the last two statements, therefore the objectives for 2021-22 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the impact of Covid absences on pupil outcomes including those in receipt of pupil premium funding</li> <li>• Continue to ensure the school budget is used effectively within an uncertain financial environment</li> <li>• Successful manage the new risk environment the school faces</li> <li>• Increase stakeholder engagement</li> <li>• Increase the impact the local community has on the school and the pupils</li> <li>• Reinvigorate the programme of governors monitoring visits</li> <li>• Develop opportunities to work in soft-partnerships with other</li> </ul>

	<p>schools/governing bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the impact of CPD on the work of the governing body</li><li>• Induct new governors to ensure they are able to contribute quickly to the work of the governing body</li></ul>
<b>Contact Details</b>	<p>The governing body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from the school community and beyond. Please contact the Chair of Governors at <a href="mailto:governors@conway.greenwich.sch.uk">governors@conway.greenwich.sch.uk</a> or through the school.</p>