Morley Primary School Governance Statement July 2021

The Morley Primary School Governing Board ensures that the three strategic functions required by Government are operating at our school. These are:

1. Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
3. Oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure funds are well spent.

Governance arrangements
At the time of writing, the Governing Board of Morley Primary School consists of:

One Parent Governors (Second parent governor appointed to start academic year September 2021/22).
One Local Authority Governor
One Staff Governor
Two Co-opted Governors
One Associate Governor
The Headteacher

There are currently no vacancies on the Governing Board.

Celebrating school successes.
Our focus continues to be firmly directed at improving outcomes for all children by delivering high quality teaching and maximising progress and attainment, consistent with the school motto '*Where everything can be achieved'*.

Pupils, staff and the whole school have worked hard under very difficult circumstances, but have ensured that pupils have had another fantastic year, and Governors are delighted to acknowledge these and congratulate the school. For a second year running, there was no official data as end of key stage 'official' assessments were cancelled. However, Year 2 and 6 pupils undertook the 2019 SATs, a previous phonics check, and the optional Year 4 multiplication tests were used to ensure that standards, and therefore provision, remain as good as in previous years. More detail with tabulated results are available on the school website https://www.morley.derbyshire.sch.uk/performance-data/. Well done to all pupils, parents and staff particularly given a second year of disruption due to Covid.

Work Done by the Governing Body

A review of general and financial skills has taken place to ensure that the Governing Body is comprised of people who have the combined skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school and maintenance of its ethos and strategic direction. The full Governing Body has met once each half term (with the exception of September) with an agenda which focused on staffing, pupils, school improvement, standards and curriculum matters, finance, premises, health and safety; safeguarding. Pupil discipline and staffing recruitment were also considered.

We would like to remind parents that greater financial pressures and increased legislative burden on administration mean that staff are hard-pressed to ensure teaching maintains the high standards the school has set for itself, and the cooperation and support of parents and pupils is important to ensure that staff feel valued and are able to keep up those standards.

Named Governors have specific responsibility for one or more areas of school life. In this capacity they visit school to meet with their school staff link member to monitor the impact of school improvement policy (SIP) activities. These roles are directly linked to the key school improvement issues, as well as to those of Early Years, Special Educational Needs, Health and Safety and Child Protection. Individual responsibilities are shown below.

SIP key issues	Link Governors	Linked member of staff
Vocabulary, Development & Reading	C Doyle	T Taylor
Learning and Progress	S McIntyre	T Taylor
Wellbeing & Staffing	J Campbell & A Fletcher	K Marsland
Curriculum	S McIntyre	T Taylor
RSE & PSHCE	C Doyle	P Taylor
Improving Governance	J Campbell	K Marsland
Artsmark	C Doyle	T Fenlon
Finance & Budgeting	J Campbell	K Fernie
Safeguarding, Anti-bullying & Looked After Children	T McKinley	K Marsland
SEN	C Doyle	P Taylor
EYFS & Continuous Provision	T McKinley	P Taylor
H&S & Buildings	J Campbell	K Fernie

Governing Body meetings have been regular and busy and have been conducted by zoom along with Governor visits. Five Full Governing Body meetings were held this year. Governors have reviewed and updated many policies this year and these are available on the school website.

Governors welcomed one new member to the Governing Body this year and they have undergone training alongside those Governors appointed towards the end of the last academic year. We recognise the importance of training in equipping Governors for the complexities of education and changes to procedures and the ways teaching is delivered. We have focused on offering a range of Governor training this year in areas of Safeguarding, Induction, SEND and being Ofsted ready.

The Governors monitor the maintenance and development of the school premises and make decisions about the school budget. We produce an annual statement of financial control as required by the Local Authority. As with all schools, budgets are tight, but we are pleased to report that we continue to maintain a balanced budget with a small contingency carry over each year. The school budget, and Health and Safety practices have been closely monitored, and we thank Miss Fernie for her involvement in these areas. We are delighted that the school is able to prioritise funding appropriately, and that everything is done to ensure children's safety, as well as that of the staff and visitors alike.

Governors have a statutory duty for Safeguarding and Tracey McKinley is our designated Child Protection and Safeguarding Governor. An Annual report on Safeguarding is submitted to the Local authority. There have been no issues of concern.

The Governing Body also has a duty to monitor our "vulnerable groups" of children and to focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on outcomes. Intervention strategies and their impact on pupil progress are monitored termly. Due to our small cohorts, this information is not published as it could identify individual pupils.

The School operates a formal complaints process and we are pleased to note that any complaints are dealt with quickly and none of them are of a serious or repetitive nature. No formal complaints have been received again this year.

Key Issues faced by the Governing body during 2020-21

- Keeping abreast of changes in legislation affecting schools, and reconstituting the governing body to meet the new government regulations
- Optimising strategic support and challenge to the school
- Ensuring that the curriculum prepares pupils for life in modern Britain
- Reviewing safeguarding and updating training
- Working with new clerical arrangements
- Ensuring that premises, staff and facilities provide continuity for the pupils
- Interruption to education due to Covid.

These issues are recognised and are included in the Governing Body Action Plan.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our school staff who work so hard to ensure that all children receive the best experiences they can. As a result, standards are maintained and improved. Pupils are happy, safe and have a love of learning which is evident in their attitudes to learning, their classrooms, and their books. May we also take this opportunity to thank our school parents for the continued and unstinting support of your children which enables them to maximise their potential.

Future Plans

- Maintaining the standard of excellence in the school by providing focus of attention to areas identified for improvement while still monitoring and maintaining excellence in other areas.
- Ensuring the school is appropriately resourced and staff have access to a wide range of CPD, so that the skills of the teaching and support staff are exemplary.
- Ensure facilities meet the demands of modern education practices
- Develop governor interaction with parents and the wider community so that ideas and concerns can be investigated and actioned quickly and appropriately.

How you can contact the Governing Body

We would love to hear your views and opinions on our school. The school sends out an annual questionnaire, and you can complete the same questionnaire on-line at ParentView on the school website and the OfSTED website. If you would like to discuss something in particular, please contact the Chair on chairofgovernors@morley.derbyshire.sch.uk alternatively you can contact the school on headteacher@morley.derbyshire.sch.uk or contact Kate Fernie (Clerk to Governors) in the school office marking any communication ‘for the attention of the Chair of Governors’.