



**Upton-upon-Severn C of E Primary School**  
**Annual Statement of the Governing Body**  
**September 2022**

## **1. Introduction**

The Governing Body works with the Headteacher to promote and maintain high standards of educational achievement. This annual statement details the work of the Governing Body in fulfilling its responsibilities.

The purpose of governors is to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement.

The Governing Body has three core strategic functions:

- a. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- b. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and the effective and efficient performance management of staff;
- c. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

## **2. The work of the Governing Body during 2021-22**

Underlying all of the work of the Full Governing Body is the school's vision - to offer inspiration to young lives and the associated motto 'Anything is possible, we can all succeed.'

The Full Governing Body (FGB) met on five occasions during the academic year 2021-22 – in September 2021, 9 December 2021, 31 March 2022, 28 April 2022 and on 19 July 2022. Since December 2021, the Business Committee had met four times – on 2 December 2021, 3 February 2022, 17 May 2022 and on 30 June 2022. The School Improvement Committee met twice during the academic year – on 11 November 2021 and 23 June 2022.

Key issues engaged with by the Full Governing Body (FGB) and its constituent committees through the school year included the following;

- Consideration of a detailed termly Headteacher's report. A new comprehensive reporting format was introduced through the year. The Headteacher's report included details on the following:
  - school's contextual data
  - safeguarding update
  - leadership and management
  - staffing update
  - pupil behaviour and attitudes (including attendance)
  - personal development
  - quality of education.

Specifically, as detailed in the Headteacher's reports, governors were able to ask about the development and implementation of aims including:

- Raising attainment through pupil achievement in all areas specific to each class (see pupil progress/performance management)
  - Providing a broad and enriched age appropriate curriculum that deepens knowledge and skills and review for this year to ensure planning and sequence meets the aspirational targets of our children
  - Focusing on maths development to raise target in this area
  - Maintaining focus on reading and writing
  - Developing a new Upton Utopia curriculum programme is being built for the Foundation subjects.
- Oversight and monitoring of the school's safeguarding procedures, with regular anonymised reports on the subject being considered at FGB meetings. The Safeguarding Link Governor met with the school's Assistant Headteacher who has responsibility for safeguarding to ensure all protocols and procedures are robust to ensure safety for all of the school's pupils, staff and visitors.
  - Approval of the school budget for 2022-23. Through the work of the Business Committee, the governors have worked closely with the headteacher, finance officer and senior leadership team to monitor the school budget throughout the year and to identify spending priorities. The local authority is kept regularly informed of the school's financial situation.

With regard to the governing body itself, during 2021-22:

- Three new co-opted governors were appointed: Susan Jarvis, Amy Wearing and Andrew Walker.
- the Chair of Governors, Shell Perris, resigned on 1 August 2022. The Vice Chair, Jess Wood took over as chair on an interim basis.
- Full governing body training took place in Spring 2022 when all governors undertook training on Effective Governance, delivered by Worcestershire Children First.

### **3. Highlights and challenges during 2021-22**

Challenges presented to the school during the year included especially the continued impact of Covid. There had been a carefully designed plan aimed at resettling children into the rhythms of school life. Consideration was given as how best to resume the school curriculum to achieve the best possible outcomes. It was agreed, following the suggestion of the Headteacher, that the term 'catch up' would not be used when talking to our children because it was felt that this had a negative focus and we are aiming at all times on positivity with children and we do not wish them to connect the Covid crisis with negativity.

The spring term particularly saw an increase in Covid numbers throughout the school which is reflected in the attendance. There were some significant staff absences and this caused difficulties in trying to arrange staff cover. Although later in the school year the Government lifted all Covid restrictions, nevertheless schools, particularly primary schools, were affected by the rising rate of Covid. At Upton, this has impacted upon the quality of educational delivery as in some weeks there has been a reduction in the level of staff in school. Consequently, the intervention groups set up were unable to run.

The Governing body also monitored the planning and implementation of a major estate programme over the Summer holiday period in 2022. This involved the school-wide replacement of lighting, in order to improve effectiveness and energy efficiency.

The School was sad to see the departure at the end of the Spring Term of its Deputy Headteacher, Chris Tomkins, but pleased to wish him well on his appointment to a headship. We welcomed to the School in the Summer Term a new Deputy Headteacher, Adam Kent.

During 2022, we have been particularly pleased to welcome 11 pupils from Ukraine into the school community.

#### **4. Priorities identified for 2022-23**

These include the following:

- Ensuring progress is made on implementing the School's Improvement/Development Plan including:
  - improving the achievement gap for all children; insuring the teaching and learning in reading, writing and maths is robust and pupils make expected or above expected progress.
  - planning for the development of the wider curriculum in the foundation subjects are still at an early stage of implementation. These should be embedded more consistently across the school.
  - ensuring that the leadership, including governance, has impact towards the School Development Plan striving towards excellent.
  - developing the Riverboats Language Unit through the Children's Centre based on the school's site to support the local community.
- Continued work on addressing the school's budget deficit.
- Appointment of a new Chair of Governors.

Jessica Wood, Interim Chair of Governors;

Andrew Walker, Chair of Governors (designate).

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