

## **Annual Governance Statement for the Board of Governors of Priestley Primary School Updated September 2021**

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Governors have worked closely with school leaders to ensure all risk assessments, procedures and guidelines have been closely followed. We have offered advice to school leaders, communicating (virtually using remote platforms) and liaising regularly with SLT, including being fully involved in the writing and monitoring of the whole school risk assessment, as well as remote learning provision and curriculum development and training. As Governors, we have been extremely mindful of the emotional wellbeing of the Headteacher, school leaders and all staff and have offered our support throughout this difficult time, especially in light of the school being fully open throughout the pandemic, to children from various groups including key workers and vulnerable pupils.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all boards of governors, the three core strategic functions of Priestley Primary School's board are:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

### **Governance arrangements**

Our Governors follow all NGA Guidance and regularly keep up to date with any changes, reviews and updates. The Board of Governors at Priestley Primary School includes two staff governors, the head teacher, three elected parent governors and three governors who are appointed by the local authority and three further members that have been co-opted onto the board because, in our opinion, they have the skills needed to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

The full board meets on three occasions during each academic year to discuss formal business. We hold a fourth full meeting each academic year to address any training needs that have arisen during the year.

The full board is then sub divided into two committees, the Finance, Premises & Staffing Committee that oversees the school budget, school facilities and school staffing requirements. The other committee is the Curriculum & Standards Committee that oversees the teaching & learning at Priestley and the progress & achievement the pupils are making.

### **Attendance record of governors**

Priestley's Board of Governors is a committed team and attendance at meetings is excellent. But where possible we go above and beyond our duty just to turn up to meetings by supporting the school and its staff wherever we can. We also undergo regular training, including online modules, in all aspects of school life.

### **The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body**

All state-maintained schools follow the Government's National Curriculum. Our priority is to ensure the school implements any further changes in a highly creative way that champions rapid progress, high standards of attainment and a love of learning. While keeping a close eye on progress and achievement, Priestley's bespoke curriculum has recently been fully reshaped; it is unique, innovative, effective and relevant to children. It is now being fully embedded throughout the school and is continually being effectively monitored in light of further Government changes to assessment and the curriculum.

The school continues to comply with any SEND key changes and further developments. Governors approve revised policies which place greater emphasis on the partnership between school and

parents/carers and builds on our existing good practice. These policies are fully embedded across the school and all teachers and members of SLT are familiar with any further changes and developments. Governors have a key role to play in keeping children safe at school. We review the policy for safeguarding children in line with the statutory framework annually, following the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' document, most recently updated in September 2021.

Governors have been monitoring how the government's Pupil Premium, Catch-up funding and Sports Funding Grants are being spent to help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged children and their peers, as well as have an impact on pupils' fitness, health and wellbeing across the school. The appointed link governor for Pupil Premium ensure all governors are regularly updated on how a variety of interventions and programmes are helping pupils reach their potential.

### **Future plans for governors**

During the autumn term of the 2021/22 school year, we will work with the head teacher and the school's senior leadership team to set the school's development plan. This sets out our targets and aspirations for the year ahead.

We will continue to monitor the curriculum and ensure it is further developed throughout the school. We will continue a particular focus on ensuring all pupils make the better-than-expected progress in order to catch up on any missed learning due to the Covid 19 situation that has affected the last two academic years.

We will continue to support and advise the school in light of the current climate.

Securing outstanding outcomes for all our children remains our ultimate goal and we will continue to work closely with teaching staff to ensure Pupil Premium and Sports grants are spent effectively and that interventions for disadvantaged children have a positive impact on their achievements and that sporting programmes have a great impact on pupils' fitness, health and wellbeing.

Priestley is a popular school and this year we welcome our new cohort of children in reception bringing our roll to approximately 300 pupils. There is space for a few more willing team members, and we will support the school in trying to fill those last few remaining spaces.

Governors will continue where possible to ensure class sizes remain at least in line with national expectations and will continue to measure the impact of the school's rapid growth over the past couple of years.

Safeguarding children will remain a priority and our focus will be on emotional and mental wellbeing and e-safety.

We will continue to equip our children for a Modern Britain by promoting our Spikey values of 'Thinking things through, cooperating, giving everything a go, sharing great ideas, staying focussed, taking responsibility and above all showing respect for all. By promoting these values, we feel we are enabling the pupils of Priestley to tackle not only the next stage in their educational journey but also in being able to empower the local community of the future as adults.