

Priestley Primary School

Governors Annual Statement 2021 – 2022



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.

Full Governing Body

Priestley Primary School Full Governing Body is made up of 14 individuals that fulfil a range of criteria in order that the school best reflects both the national Department for Education led requirements as well as reflecting local needs. The Full Governing Body is made up of

- 4 x Parents
- 4 x Community
- 2 x Local Authority
- 2 x Staff
- 1 x Headteacher
- 1 x Clerk

The Full Governing Body's remit is to:

- Set and monitor the budget for the school and overseeing the financial management of the school. This is achieved through the work undertaken by the Finance, Premises and Staffing Committee during the academic year.
- Maintenance and improve the school buildings and site and oversee all health and safety aspects in relation to this responsibility. This is achieved through the work undertaken by the Finance, Premises and Staffing Committee during the academic year.
- Ensure that our pupils progress appropriately in their education and appreciate that for this to happen the pupils must be supported by a well led, enthusiastic, professionally competent and motivated staff all working together within a safe, supportive but yet relaxing environment. This is achieved through the work undertaken by the Curriculum and Standards Committee during the academic year.
- Governors appreciate too, the requirements of our children's parents and carers and their need to be satisfied about the overall leadership and management of the school and how it affects safety, learning and enjoyment of their children.
- This statement and report are part of that evaluation and publication process.

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.

Finance, Premises & Staffing Committee

This working party is made up of five members of the Governing Body who offer the best skill sets in order to be able to evaluate and report to the Full Governing Body. This Committee meets six times a year and its remit is to:

- manage strategic 5-year budget alongside the school's Headteacher and Business Manager that will fulfil all requirements ensuring the children receive the best possible primary school experience.
- overseeing the financial management of the school.
- monitor and review the in-year school budget and ensure best value and maximum impact for monies spent are achieved.
- ensuring staffing levels are maintained in line with increasing numbers on roll as well taking into consideration staff welfare and workload.
- ensure the school premises remain safe and fit for purpose
- work towards a strategic overall improvement plan for the school building & school site.

Curriculum and Standards Committee

This working party is made up of seven members of the Governing Body who offer the best skill sets in order to be able to evaluate and report to the Full Governing Body. This Committee meets six times a year and its remit is to:

- Review provision and ensuring the children continue to receive a broad, balanced, stimulating experience during their time at Priestley.
- Review impact of the school's curriculum on pupil achievement across the breadth of the curriculum.
- Meet with Subject Leaders and throughout the academic year in order to remain current with both achievements and areas for development across the curriculum.

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 2022.

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.

School Development Plan (SDP)

Governors work co-operatively with the head teacher and senior management in writing and monitoring the School Development Plan. The School Development Plan sets aims for the forthcoming year. The SDP for 2020/21 was based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SDP is set out in three sections, one developing Leadership, one focusing on Teaching & Learning, predominantly pupil achievement in English and Maths, and a third that Supports the Learning. Each Section has a number of clear aims, the key tasks which will be completed in order to achieve these aims and the success criteria in order to measure outcomes. The SDP is monitored and reviewed through the academic year, with an evaluation overview being completed and presented to governors alongside a termly Head Teacher report. This academic year the COVID-19 Pandemic has continued to impact on school targets.

2021 – 2022 Leadership Targets included:

- To continue to reduce the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the children's learning.
- To review EYFS provision and ensure the children are ready for Year One.
- To continue to development subject leadership across the school.
- To continue to manage the ongoing expansion of the school.

2021 – 2022 Teaching and Learning Targets included:

- Ensuring excellent teaching of a consistent approach to phonics across EYFS and Key Stage One.
- Encourage a love of reading across all of our pupils across the school.
- To develop a wide range of opportunities for pupils to write.
- To continue to develop the teaching of Maths across the school.

2021 – 2022 Supporting the Learning Targets included:

- Improve outcomes for Year One pupils through improved outdoor provision.
- Continue to improve site security.
- To create and equip an additional classroom in order to address increasing numbers on roll.
- Review Computing provision in light of losing the IT Suite.
- Reduce pupil absence rates.
- Improve outcomes for Year Five and Six pupils through an improved learning environment.

The governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the SDP and of specific issues. These visits are considered a valuable opportunity for governors to be able to work closely with staff members across the school. Guidance in terms of the roles and responsibilities of governors during their visits are provided and regular training is available in order to up-skill our team.

Data analysis

Data is made available to governors throughout the academic year and is discussed as part of an agenda item in Curriculum and Standards Committee meetings with verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions. By doing this the governors are able to benchmark their data against similar schools, the Local Authority and schools nationally to ensure the schools standards and expectations remain high and are able to be closely scrutinised. Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups and on the effective use of the Pupil Premium.

Policies

Governors review all relevant policies on a programmed basis to ensure that all guidance is current and up to date. All Safeguarding policies and procedures are reviewed annually, other policies and procedures follow a three-year rolling programme of review. Specific attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education and Local Authority requirements and recommendations.

Financial Management

Priestley Primary School has an experienced Chair of the Finance, Premises & Staffing Committee who, assisted by the rest of the committee, are fully committed to ensuring that the school money is spent

effectively for all pupils. The governors have worked closely with the Head Teacher and School Business Manager to monitor the school budget. The impact of the governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is managed effectively and impacts favourably on pupil achievement and school premises.

Staff Recruitment

The headteacher, Deputy Headteacher several governors are trained in "Safer Recruitment". Governors are involved in the recruitment and selection of teaching staff and use the appointment process to ensure that high quality staff who share the schools mission statement and aims are appointed.

Governor Training

During this academic year governors have received training in a range of subjects including Safer Recruitment, Child Protection and Health & Safety.

Impact statement – review:

The governing body, the head teacher and senior management team and indeed all members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop the school. This level of dedication and expertise has demonstrated itself in our pleasing end of academic year pupil achievement data that demonstrated achievement inline or better than 2022 national averages in most areas.

YEAR ONE PHONICS TEST	
2022 Priestley working at expected or better.	79%
2022 initial working at expected level or better national averages	76%

Taken by all Year One pupils

YEAR TWO PHONICS RE-TEST	
2022 Priestley working at expected or better.	90%
2022 initial working at expected level or better national averages	87%

Only taken by Year Two pupils that didn't pass in Year One

END OF KEY STAGE ONE RESULTS	Reading	Writing	Maths
2022 Priestley working at expected or better.	67%	69%	82%
2022 initial working at expected level or better national averages	67%	70%	76%
2022 Priestley working at greater depth level.	4%	0%	12%
2022 initial working at greater depth level national averages.	18%	8%	15%

Taken by all Year Two pupils

END OF KEY STAGE TWO RESULTS	Reading	Writing	Grammar & Spelling	Maths	Combined
2022 Priestley working at expected level or better.	85%	81%	85%	59%	59%
2022 initial working at expected level or better national averages	74%	69%	72%	71%	65%
2022 Priestley working at greater depth level.	45%	11%	25%	11%	4%
2022 initial working at greater depth level national averages.	27%	13%		22%	

Taken by all Year Six pupils

Key issues and priorities that the Governing Body have faced during 2021 – 22

This year has been another exceptionally demanding and eventful year, following on from the last two extremely challenging year in light of the global pandemic. Key activities included:

1. Scrutiny and analysis of data within the context of the school and the impact of COVID19.
2. Scrutiny and analysis of interim in-school results of pupil progress.

3. Monitoring the implementation of the school development plan.
4. Managing the short and long term sickness of members of staff and the staff covering the roles in relation to COVID 19.
5. Improvement of the school learning environment.
6. Monitoring changes in pupil numbers and the implications for both budget and staffing.
7. Budget setting and monitoring and review of school finances.
8. Review of school policies and documentation.
9. Monitoring of the school's appraisal cycle.
10. Overseeing the continual compliance in school with the General Data Protection Regulations.
11. Appointment of a new a teacher.
12. Supporting the head teacher in implementing an effective process of provision to ensure school remained open during Covid outbreaks due to difficulties in staffing

Future Plans for Governors

During the first few weeks of the 2022/23 school year, we will work with the headteacher and the school's senior leadership team to finalise the school's development plan. This will set 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 into reception bringing our roll to approximately 290 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.



Priestley & Proud