



The Governance Statement for White Court School

In January 2014 the Department for Education published departmental advice in relation to the the School Procedures regulations 2013. A number of additional recommendations, not mentioned in the Procedures regulations, were made in the advice document, **including reference to the publication of an annual governance statement.**

It is also good practice for the board to publish an annual governance statement (as academy trusts are required to do through the Accounts Direction) to explain how it has fulfilled its responsibilities – particularly in relation to its core functions, including:

- *the governance arrangements that are in place, including the remit of any committees;*
- *the attendance record of individual governors at board and committee meetings; and*
- *an assessment of the effectiveness and impact of the board and any committees with details of any particular challenges that have arisen.*

Whilst accepting that the publication of a governance statement is not mandatory, ECA recommends that it is good practice and an effective way for governors to demonstrate that their accountability to parents, at least annually. We suggest that governors agree a statement – an **example** is below – and publish this on their website, perhaps at the end of the summer term each year.

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| <p>Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of White Court School July 2018</p> |
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| <p>In accordance with the Government’s requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of White Court School Governing Body are:</p> |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent. |
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| <p>Governance arrangements</p> | <p>The Governing Body of White Court School is made up of 2 staff governors (including the Headteacher), 5 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 5 Co-opted governors. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school: on our Governing Body the five co-</p> |
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| | <p>opted governors are members of the local community, including a vicar from our local church, a Solicitor and a number with accountancy or financial skills/qualification. It is considered that the Governing Body has a mix of skills, knowledge business requirements, and the needs of the school to ensure that all statutory and non-statutory requirements are met for the education and safety of the pupils.</p> <p>The full Governing Body meets twice each term. If additional meetings are needed smaller groups meet, e.g. to complete the SFVS. We also have selected committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.</p> <p>See p3 for a list of Governors.</p> |
| Attendance record of governors | <p>Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not “quorate” (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). See p4 for details of individual governors’ attendance at meetings. Outside of scheduled meetings it is sometimes necessary to convene meetings at short notice to meet the business needs of the school, all of which have been “quorate”. Not all Governors are members of the Pay and Performance Committee hence N/A under attendance below would indicate a non-member of that committee.</p> |
| The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body | <p>The Governing Body has had a busy year, focusing on school improvement and working alongside the Notley Family of Schools (NFoS) to improve progress and attainment for all of the children in our care. The Chair of Governors also chairs the Governance Board for this group and has initiated sharing governance between schools.</p> <p>Governors continue to take an active role in supporting the Health and Safety and Safeguarding processes within school. Mr Smith-Jones attends the termly check of the premises, offering advice and support. Mr McCann makes regular termly checks of the Single Central Record and is also kept informed by the Headteacher of current Safeguarding issues.</p> <p>Early in the Summer Term, the Governing Body approved the 2017/18 budget plan for the school, but by a narrow margin. The finances were discussed and length and decisions were made to restructure the Learning Support Assistant team to make saving for the future, as budgets are set to be just as tight next year.</p> |



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| | <p>One of the roles for the Governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies all of which are published on our web site. Attendance figures at the school have improved considerably but Governors will be watching closely the legal position, as it develops, for unauthorised absences during term time. Minutes of Governing Body meetings are public documents – you can either find them on the Governors' page of our website or you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.</p> |
| Future plans for the governors | <p>Development of the Year 6 area to replace the re-locatable classes. Work alongside parents to improve the safety of journeys to and from school.</p> |
| How you can contact the governing body | <p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr Chris McCann, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; minutes of governing body meetings and more information about what we do, on the Governors' page of the school website.</p> |

White Court School Governing Body 2017-18

| | Category | Term of office expiry date |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rev. Beth Bendry | Co-opted | 10/11/2020 |
| Emma Brewster | Observer/Advisor | |
| Martin Blagrove | Parent Governor | 26/01/2019 |
| Angela Comfort | Co-opted | 31/10/2017 |
| Diane Deans (Headteacher) | Staff Governor | Ex officio |
| Jonathon Wilson | Parent Governor | 19/03/2020 |
| Daniel Jones | Parent Governor | 05/11/2021 |
| Chris McCann (Chair) | Co-opted Governor | 30/06/2022 |
| Melissa Mulgrew | Parent Governor | 30/04/2020 |
| Bob Cann | Local Authority | 14/01/2022 |
| Paul Day | Parent Governor | 09/11/2021 |
| Russell Pryke | Observer/Advisor | 30/06/2022 |
| Rob Smith-Jones | Co-opted Governor | 03/05/2020 |
| John Reilly (vice Chair and Chair of Pay Committee) | Co-opted Governor | 30/06/2022 |
| Fay Madden | Staff Governor | 05/07/2020 |

Perfect Primary School Governors' Attendance Record for 2017-2018

| Governor | Full Governing Body | Pay & Performance |
|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rev. Beth Bendrey | 66% | 100% |
| Emma Brewster | 100% | n/a |
| Martin Blagrove | 83% | n/a |
| Bob Cann | 100% | n/a |
| Diane Deans | 83% | n/a |
| John Reilly | 83% | n/a |
| Rob Smith-Jones | 83% | 100% |
| Daniel Jones | 100% | n/a |
| Chris McCann | 83% | n/a |
| Melissa Mulgrew | 100% | n/a |
| Paul Day | 83% | n/a |
| Russell Pryke | 83% | n/a |
| Jonathon Wilson | 100% | n/a |