

## **Annual Statement of Governance 2017-2018**

Dear Staff, Parents, Carers and Friends

In accordance with the government's requirement from our governing board of Cann Bridge School, the three core strategic functions of our governing board are:

1. Ensuring clarity and vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the schools and making sure that its money is well spent

School governing boards are responsible for working with the school to ensure that it delivers a good quality education. Together with the headteacher, who is responsible for day-to-day management, they set the school's aims and policies.

### **We also carry out a number of other important duties, which include:**

- Determining how the school's budget is spent
- The appointing and dismissing of staff
- Hearing appeals and grievances
- Forming policy on the school's curriculum
- Setting standards for pupils' behaviour and discipline
- Making sure school buildings are welcoming and safe
- Setting and monitoring the school's aims and policies

### **Who can be a school governor?**

You don't have to have children at the school to be a governor. However, you do have to be over 18, and pass a formal check for your suitability to be within a school.

What's important is that you have the skills, time and commitment to help drive school improvement and the passion and ambition to achieve the best possible education for children and young people.

In our role as governors we have worked hard to ensure these criteria's have been met and that the school is moving forward positively.

The Cann Bridge School Governing Board includes:

- 1 Staff Governor
- 2 Parent Governors
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 1 Headteacher
- 3 Co-opted Governors
- 2 Co-opted Vacancies

The governing board is currently made up of 8 members all bringing a wide range of skills and expertise. These members are:

2 Parent Governors – Stuart Williams and Holly Steer

1 Local Authority Governor - Katie Bohannon (Chair)

1 Staff Governor – Nicola Burrage

1 Headteacher - Michael Loveman

3 Co-opted Governors - Hilary Knight (Vice-Chair), Philippa Brown and Louise Viney.

There continues to be two vacancies.

Governors fulfil their roles and responsibilities through attendance at meetings, link roles, training, attending events and implementing the Annual management plan.

Meetings throughout this year were organised as follows:

- 1 Business meeting
- 6 Full Governors' meetings
- 1 Full Finance (Budget Setting) Meeting
- 1 Half Day strategic planning meeting
- 1 Half Day training session

During the year the work of the governing board has included:

- Following defederation, the governing board has reconstituted. This has involved adopting a circular meeting structure, revising policies, allocating new link roles, recruiting and mentoring new governors
- A one day, Section 8 short Ofsted inspection took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The outcome of this inspection was very positive, and the school remains a good school. As part of this inspection process, a group of four governors were interviewed by Ofsted inspectors, and governance was judged to be good, highlighting in the report that 'Governors continue to monitor the school's provision effectively, holding the Head and other leaders firmly to account'. 'The governor responsible for safeguarding ensures that the schools systems are implemented effectively'
- Appointing a new Clerk to Governors who has brought a wealth of experience from other governing boards.
- Assisting with the appointment of new staff.
- Reviewing the school's website.
- Monitoring assessment procedures – including book scrutines, external moderation of work with other Plymouth Special Schools.
- Creating a new Governor Information Board in the reception area to improve focus on who the governing body are.
- Evaluating the targets that were set in the 2016-17 Peer to Peer review meetings. This year's governor development meetings were held in groups rather than one to one meetings.
- The introduction of new curriculum link roles.
- Regularly attending training particularly safeguarding and GDPR.

- Involvement in shaping the Schools Development Plan.
- A high volume of Governor visits during the year focusing on our statutory responsibilities, many of which focused on pupil progress.
- Completing the Governor Competency Framework

### **Moving Forward**

We are proposing to re-introduce a Finance Committee during a climate of challenging school budgets. This will mean that the meeting structure for the following year will be as follows:

- 1 Business meeting
- 6 Full Governors' meetings
- 3 Full Finance Committee Meetings
- 1 Full Finance (Budget Setting) Meeting
- 1 Half Day strategic planning meeting
- 1 Half Day training session

Areas to develop:

The governors Strategic Priorities for 2018-19 to feed into the schools Strategic Development Plan are:

- To monitor the implementation of the new curriculum model and associated assessment tools
- Active recruitment of new governors to fill the current vacancies
- To encourage staff presentations at FGB meetings to inform governors of curriculum initiatives

The Cann Bridge Governing Board is looking forward to continuing our development during the forthcoming academic year and we will provide you with regular updates of our progress and achievements.

Yours sincerely

Cann Bridge School Governing Board