

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all Governing Bodies, the three core strategic functions of our Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

In exercising their functions the governing body shall

- Act with integrity, objectivity and honesty and in the best interests of the school; and
- Be open about the decisions they make and the actions they take and in particular shall be prepared to explain their decisions and actions to interested parties.

Our governing body has a code of conduct which is reviewed and agreed annually at the first meeting of the new school year. All governors and associate members are obliged to abide by this code.

Governance arrangements:

We always strive to ensure the Governing Body has the blend of skills, competencies and commitment to meet the needs and future requirements of the school, with the current constitution of the Governing Body as follows:

1 Headteacher – Kate Dawson

1 Local Authority Governor – vacant as at the end of the summer term however an existing governor, Geraldine Riley, has applied to the local authority to be appointed into this role.

4 Co-opted Governors – Jonathan McGill, Sarah Boyd, Geraldine Riley, Beth Buckley (appointed Governor 10 October 2022 following previous appointment as associate governor)

2 Parent Governors – Rebecca Paskin, Victoria Wakeman

1 Staff Governor –Emma Pease

Kate Dawson who was acting headteacher for the school in the previous year has now served a full year in the permanent position, the Governors working closely with Kate in determining the priorities of the school.

The governing body previously had the support of the NYCC Governors service which following the resignation of the previous clerk has unfortunately not been able to be continued. The Governing Body, following an extensive search and research of options have appointed Linda Whitehead to the role of the Clerk to Governors from May 2023. A full training programme has been established for the role.

During the year the Governing Body has continued to develop its' knowledge and skills and has become a committed and capable source of support and challenge to the Headteacher and the school staff.

Specific experience in the following areas exists throughout the Governing Body:

- Experience/understanding of Governance;
- Understanding and experience of strategic planning;
- Experience of primary education;
- Experience of project management;
- Experience of performance management appraisal;
- Experience of financial planning/management;
- Experience of risk and compliance management
- Experience of premises/facilities management;
- Links with the local community/businesses;
- Day to day engagement with the school as parents of students;
- Knowledge of the local and wider economy.

Governors undertake a skills audit annually and have developed a training tracker to ensure training needs are both analysed and tracked. Following the revised OFSTED framework the Governors reviewed the most appropriate structure for the monitoring of the school and have adopted the following structure for the Autumn term into the 2023/24 school year.

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5
SIP Focus Area	Phonics, spelling, punctuation	Assessment	Progression and small steps (starting with EYFS)	Behaviour and Attitudes including attendance	Vision, ethos and values
OFSTED Focus	Quality of Education			Behaviour & Attitudes Personal Development	
	Leadership & Management (including safeguarding)				

As Governors we hold a minimum of six meetings per year with a programme of meetings throughout the school year which focus on specific areas of governance, agendas designed to cover the statutory responsibilities. We also have a Data Team which meets to review the educational progress and attainment being achieved and predicted for every child. In addition there are nominated safeguarding, Pupil Premium and Sports Funding governors with a small team responsible for the performance review of the Headteacher. Meetings are largely held in person with the option of virtual meetings to ensure maximum attendance.

Attendance Record of Governors:

A record of our attendance at meetings is kept by the Clerk to the Governing Body and is available on the school website.

Work of the Governing Body 2022/23:

Following the formal appointment of Kate Dawson as Headteacher from the prior year position as acting Head, the Governing body continued to support the school in the review and establishment of revised priorities and improvement areas. These were supported by structured objectives set with the support of the School Improvement team at North

Yorkshire Education Services. Visible changes can be seen with the launch of the new school website and revisions to how information is provided to parents.

The overall aim for the school is captured within the School Improvement Plan encompassing the following objectives:

1.The skilful teaching of reading develops a positive culture whereby children achieve reading standards above national average.

2.To develop and further the school's vision through high expectations of all behaviours.

3.Teaching quality is consistently a high standard across school and all subjects so that progress across the school compares favourably to national standards.

with the work of the Governing Body aiming to support the school in achieving these objectives.

The school currently receives Pupil Premium Funding to support the learning of some children. It is important the Governing body monitors how money is spent, and what the impact of that spend is on the children's learning. To that end the Governing Body receive Pupil Premium reports from the Headteacher.

One of the key objectives of the Governing Body is to monitor financial position of the school and ensure resources are being used appropriately. The Governing body was able to approve a budget plan for the school which retains some carried forward surplus but this is becoming increasingly challenging. Despite this we continue to support the Headteacher in maintaining current staffing levels and resources, without which the quality of education our children receive would inevitably suffer. This does however require some difficult decisions such as increasing the cost to parents of school meals.

The Approved minutes can be obtained by contacting the Clerk at the address below.

Strategic Planning for the future:

We will continue to rigorously monitor progress against the School Improvement Plan and work closely with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to ensure the School is the best it can be, welcoming external support when required. We will work on strategies identified from the Governing Body self-evaluation exercise to continue to improve our working practices and look to recruit new governors that add to the skills need identified. We will exercise strong stewardship and support and challenge in all areas to ensure the highest possible standards for the benefit of students and value for money.

How to contact your governing body:

Information about the School's Governing Body is available on the Governors' page of the School website <http://www.cowling.n-yorks.sch.uk> and the Governors can be contacted via the school email address with the clerk contactable via Clerk to Governors clerktogovernors@cowling.n-yorks.sch.uk