

Forty Hill CE School

Governing Body Annual Statement to Parents

September 2020



This year, unlike any other, has been a challenging time for the school, like it has been for everyone across the country and the entire world. The global Covid pandemic forced schools to close to the majority of pupils in March 2020. Forty Hill remained open to children of key workers and vulnerable children from March until 1st June, including collaborating with Attigo Academy to provide childcare during the Easter holidays. From 1st June, the school extended its opening to some pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and later Year 5 as well as a transition day for each class in the final week of term, aiming to meet our vision of 'giving every child every opportunity'. Throughout this period, measures were put in place to minimise infection, socially distance pupils, staff and parents and to continue with the education of all of our children, whether in school or online. The Governing Body worked alongside Mr Newham and his team to work through risk assessments, follow guidance from the Government and the Department for Education and to ensure that all processes were followed to maximise the safety of our community.

In general, the major focus of the governors of Forty Hill CE School is to ensure that our pupils progress appropriately in their education and as individuals. The Governing Body 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, stimulating environment. 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.

To achieve their objectives, governors must continually evaluate the role they have played within the life of the school, and publish relevant information to all interested parties.

This annual statement is part of that evaluation and publication process.

The Governing Body – 2020-21

The Governing Body comprises of 11 governors: 6 Foundation Governors and 5 Representative Governors. All governors are volunteers and offer a wide range of skills and experience.

Foundation Governors

1 of the Foundation Governors is a nominee of the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS), 1 is a nominee of the Enfield Deanery Synod and 3 are from the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Jesus Church. The vicar of Jesus Church is also a Foundation Governor, ex officio.

Mrs Funmi Worrell (Chair)	PCC
Mrs Ruth Moore (Vice Chair)	Enfield Deanery
Rev'd Ian Crofts	Ex Officio Vicar of Jesus Church
Mrs Zoey Dickson	LDBS
Ms Holly Evans	PCC
Ms Sue Hamment	PCC

There is currently one vacancy for an LDBS Governor.

Representative Governors

The Representative Governors include 1 nominated by the Local Authority (LA), 2 elected parent governors and 1 elected staff governor. The Headteacher is also part of the Governing Body, ex officio.

Mrs Hannah Bawden	LA Appointee
Mrs Gemma Browes	Elected Parent

Mrs Helen Buller
Mr Barry Young
Mr Josh Newham

Elected Staff
Elected Parent
Ex Officio Headteacher

Clerk to the Governors

Mrs Anna Keelan BSc (Hons) DipSBM

All communication to the governors should be through the school office, via email (office@fortyhill.enfield.sch.uk), telephone (020 8363 0760) or letter.

Function of the Governing Body

The Governors of the school provide strategic leadership and accountability and make an important contribution to the school's wellbeing and effectiveness.

As the governing body, we have four core functions:

- **ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**

Governors are responsible for setting the school's strategic framework, identifying priorities for school improvement and monitoring progress towards these goals. We are also responsible for setting a school ethos of high expectations of behaviour, progress and attainment of all pupils and of conduct of staff and governors.

- **holding the headteacher and Senior Management Team to account for the educational performance of the school, its pupils and the performance management of the staff**

Governors must provide challenge to the school and hold the headteacher and senior leaders to account for improving the quality of teaching and learning and school performance. We do this through questioning and through regular monitoring and analysis of data on children's performance and progress. Governors hold the headteacher to account for the performance management of teachers. The headteacher's performance management is conducted by governors.

- **overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring that the budget is spent effectively**

Governors look at financial statements and ask questions to ensure that the school makes efficient use of its budget and provides best value for money. Each year the Governing Body considers:

- *Standards of attainment and progress of all year groups and groups of children across the school*
- *Attendance and punctuality*
- *Staffing*
- *Finance*
- *Health and Safety*
- *Regular review of the School Development Plan and the School's Self Evaluation*

- **realising a shared Christian vision for the school**

Governors provide further challenge to the school leaders to ensure that the school maintains and promotes a distinctive Christian character and holds leaders to account for evidencing this. Questioning, learning walks, surveys and engaging with the whole community allows the Governors to oversee this feature of school improvement and development.

Review of the 2019-20 Academic Year

The 2019-20 year was a year of real challenge due to the Coronavirus pandemic. During this time, the Governors have particularly focused on supporting the Headteacher and the school during the covid pandemic. This has included:

- risk assessments for hygiene and health and safety for both lockdown, reopening and September
- understanding guidance from the Government and Department for Education
- discussing and approving social distance measures, hygiene implications and the school premises, ready for reopening

- approving the online curriculum during lockdown
- approving the recovery curriculum for September
- regularly meeting (online) with the headteacher to discuss plans and procedures

Prior to March 2020, the focus for the Governors based on the School Development Plan was as follows:

- The progress and review of the School Development Plan
- Regular Governor Visits to the school
- Working with the Headteacher to continually improve the IT infrastructure
- Continuity within the EYFS and links with the rest of the school
- Analysing the Christian distinctiveness of the school through the vision and values, behaviour and attitudes
- Mental health and wellbeing for the school community
- Focus on practical science lessons
- Outdoor Learning and Forest Schools development
- Reading for pleasure
- Developing the whole child as a unique individual
- Supporting parental understanding of the curriculum

The Governing Body

The Governing Body has extensive knowledge from different walks of life, both educational and non-educational. This ensures a wide scope of challenge and accountability for the leadership and management of the school. Governors continue to develop their leadership role by completing Governor training conducted by the Local Authority and online.

The Governing Body take a keen interest in the curriculum provided by the teaching staff, bettering their understanding by conducting school visits, talking to staff and pupils and gathering information from books and learning taking place in the classroom.

The Governing Body has seven (7) meetings per annum as a Full Governing Body as well as committees to review pay and performance of staff, the Vision, Values and Christian Distinctiveness of the School, Admissions, School Finance and Premises.

Staffing

The Governors believe that the quality of teaching staff is integral to the improvement of standards. The Headteacher and his senior leadership team, sometimes accompanied by representatives from the Local Authority, LDBS or another Headteacher from a local school, has conducted a series of lesson observations and learning walks throughout the academic year and judge the teaching and learning in the school as consistently good or better.

2019-2020 saw few changes to the teaching team and the governors are pleased to report that, for the start of the 2020-2021 academic year, the school has a full complement of well qualified teachers, support staff and leaders. The Governors regularly reviewed the performance of teachers during the past academic year, through headteacher's reports and feedback.

Quality of Education

The Governing Body is fully supportive of the school's vision and values and committed to working with the leadership team to create a fulfilled, healthy and successful learning environment for each and every child at the school. Mathematics, Reading and Writing continues to be a strength of the school, as well as the outstanding RE provision. The Governing Body has been impressed with the wider curriculum at Forty Hill and particularly appreciate the impact it has on the pupils, both academically and emotionally.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, statutory data was not collected in the 2019-20 academic year, and internal data was collected up to March. School leaders have been working on a recovery curriculum to be implemented from September 2020 and this will include an analysis of lost learning.

Behaviour and Personal Development Pupil Outcomes

The Leadership team has ensured that the children are given the opportunity to develop well as human beings, particularly through the teaching of PSHE and Philosophy for Children. The teaching of British Values as well as opportunities for children to develop their articulacy and own opinions is a great strength of the school, recognised by the Local Authority and LDBS. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development is key to ensuring that children have a well-balanced 'whole' education at Forty Hill. We are proud of the Reaching Out Programme, which sees every child take part in a programme to support the wider community.

Behaviour at the school is very good, with any issues of inequality or bullying tackled immediately by the leadership team and reported to the Governing Body. Governors fully support the behaviour system of the school, in line with our vision of giving every child every opportunity to be fulfilled, healthy and successful, learning through mistakes and learning forgiveness and respect.

The Governors have supported the leadership team in their creative use of the curriculum through Topic Fridays as well as the exciting opportunities given to the children through enrichment opportunities such as Forest Schools, John Gilbert, Debating and Maths masterclasses. The Governors are keen to ensure that further enrichment opportunities are given to the children even in light of the shrinking budget and the restrictions imposed on us due to the pandemic.

The Governors are very keen to support the leadership and school community with the continued promotion of mental health teaching and learning within the school.

Leadership and Management

The Governing Body is fully supportive of the Headteacher and his senior management team, and have supported the many changes brought about for school improvement. We are proud of our school and believe that our staff are our biggest asset.

As part of the school leadership, the Governing Body works co-operatively with the headteacher and senior leadership team to monitor the School Development Plan (SDP) and take part in a Self-Evaluation of the School. The School Development Plan sets aims for the school based on priorities identified from data, school self-evaluation and Ofsted priorities. The SDP is set out with 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 termly, with an evaluation overview being completed and presented to Governors within the headteacher report. The Chair of Governors meets regularly with the Headteacher and termly with the Senior Management Team to discuss improvements and progress towards meeting the SDP.

The Governing Body were delighted to review the Pupil Self Evaluation and work with the school council to analyse the children's opinions of the school, which were very positive. This self-evaluation can be found here: <https://www.fortyhill.com/page/?title=Our+Key+Priorities&pid=86>

EYFS

The governors continue to take a keen interest in the development of the EYFS and the links between the Nursery and Reception as well as the rest of the school. The governors have noted that the EYFS environment reflects the challenge and opportunity that we wish our youngest children to have, as well as the freedom and exploration that allows them to learn.

Focus for the 2020-21 Academic Year

During the 2020-21 school year, the Governors will particularly focus on:

- Reviewing and analysing the School Development Plan

- Ensuring that the school continues to be thoroughly risk assessed and meet the strictest hygiene measures and social distancing where possible to control and minimise infection
- Reviewing the Recovery Curriculum
- Supporting staff and pupil mental health and wellbeing through the curriculum
- Maintain Christian distinctiveness and effectiveness as a church school
- Ensuring that Spiritual Moral Social Cultural Education (SMSC) and the Wider Curriculum (including outdoor learning and enrichment) continues to be a strength of the school even during the restrictions placed upon society
- Ensuring curriculum resources (including staffing) premises, IT infrastructure and site security is continually updated and purchased whilst maintaining financial stability in uncertain times for school finance
- Ensuring Governors are best equipped to support the school

This Annual Statement was co-written and published in September 2020 by Funmi Worrell (Chair of Governors) and Josh Newham (Headteacher).