**Lache Primary School**

A group of trees

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**Governors Annual Statement to Staff & Parents - September 2024**

**WHO WE ARE**

The Governing Body consists of 12 members whose pen portraits are available to view on the school website. There are two staff members including the headteacher, seven co-opted members, two parent members and a Local Authority member. There is also an associate member and the clerk who attend the meetings but do not have voting rights.

This year the governing body has welcomed two new governors co-opted governors. We have also sadly accepted the resignation of our long serving and valued community member Neil Holmes who decided to step down at the end of his term of office in April to spend more time with his family. On behalf of the school we would like to offer Neil our grateful thanks for his long commitment to the school and look forward to his continued visits in support of the children.

**WHAT WE DO**

Governors are appointed to:-

* Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
* Hold executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
* Oversee the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

The governing body is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the school, acting within the framework set by national legislation, and with due consideration to governance principles and the policies of Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority.

The governing body meets as a whole board four times per year for official business meetings and additional termly sessions for strategic planning. The governing body operates a structure comprising two committees, Teaching & Learning Committee and Resources Committee who meet termly to discuss areas of responsibility assigned to them under their terms of reference. There are also sub-groups appointed for dealing with complaints, appeals, headteacher performance and pay & review.

**HOW WE IMPACT UPON THE SCHOOL**

The governing body work in partnership with the headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to set the priorities for the school’s development each year. The governing body is responsible for holding the school leaders to account for the progress made towards achieving the objectives and aims of the School Development Plan (SDP).

The governing body regularly review the SDP with updates on progress achieved. There are key roles and responsibilities assigned to individuals to carry out monitoring tasks linked to the SDP. Governors complete a report after every monitoring activity and report back to the full governing body.

The Teaching & Learning Committee have been able to monitor in-year progress and attainment and triangulate this with book looks and pupil voice monitoring. This has given governors a clear picture of the progress of specific groups of pupils which has been analysed against the SDP priority areas. From this, governors have been able to focus on additional areas for development.

There has been a focus this year on monitoring the curriculum coverage across the school to ensure full access, engagement and progress for all the children.

Termly reviews of the Pupil Premium Plan were discussed and evaluated.

The Resources committee have agreed a three year financial plan recommended by the budget officer, taking into account the priorities of the School Development Plan.

They regularly reviewed the school’s expenditure against the budget and agreed various virements within the budget to reflect changes in activity (eg repairs and maintenance to ensure that essential work can be undertaken).

Governors ensured that the school is meeting the basic standards necessary to achieve a good level of financial health and resource management.

The governors approved the appointment of an independent qualified auditor for the school fund.

Annual contract agreements were reviewed for best value.

Governors set out a proposed order of priorities for maintenance and development which included toilet refurbishment and boiler repairs.

They ensured that the school was staffed sufficiently for the fulfilment of the school’s development plan and the effective operation of the school including the appointment of additional staff to provide catch up support for all pupils.

They received the results of the staff appraisal carried out by the headteacher and agreed appropriate salary progression for eligible staff.

The Head Teacher’s performance was agreed against previous targets and new targets set for the following year.

Both committees reviewed and agreed a wide range of school policies (including British Values, Religious Education, Collective Worship, Dealing with Complaints, Pay, Appraisal, Behaviour and Pupil Premium) to ensure they are still relevant and to help the school meet its statutory requirements. All policies can be found on the school website. These were recommended for full approval to the full Governing Board.

One of the key functions of the governing body is to undertake strategic monitoring activity, the purpose of which is to triangulate information shared with governors by the Senior Leadership Team. The governing body undertakes a wide range of monitoring activities whilst building positive relationships with staff and demonstrating Governors’ commitment to the school. These activities include:

* Monitoring visits to the school to meet with subject leaders to discuss aspects of the curriculum and where the subject sits in SDP.
* Taking into account external reports and building this into monitoring.
* Pupil surveys.
* Staff and parent surveys.
* Inviting staff members to governing body and committee meetings to report on key areas.
* Learning walks
* Book scrutinies

The governing board takes their responsibility to stay up-to-date seriously and places high importance on this, including undergoing any necessary training.

**WHAT WE PLAN TO DO NEXT**

Each year the Governing Body agrees upon an action plan for further development in order to support the school’s priorities. An evaluation of last year’s priorities can be found on page 8 of the Governor Impact Statement. The key actions for the academic year 2024 -2025 are to:-

* Improve school attendance
* Monitor the quality of education across the school
* Improve the funding stream by applying for available grants
* Improve the EYFS outdoor area

The Governing Body can be contacted through the school by post or email to :-

Chair of Governors

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**For a fuller, more detailed report of the work of the governors please see**

**The Governor Impact Statement on the website.**