



**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body
of Croft Church of England Primary School
July 2016**

The Governing Body have published this document to give parents an idea of the work that has been undertaken during this academic year. We hope you will find it informative.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Croft Church of England Primary School Governing Body are:

- 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**

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Croft Church of England Primary School was reconstituted in September 2014 and is now made up of:

2 Foundation Governors, (Mrs V. Waugh and Rev J. Lane (Resigned February 2016)), 4 Parent Governors (Mr P. Thompson, Mr P. Knapp, Ms S. Thornton and Mr D. Smith), 2 Co-opted Governors (Mr D. Blenkarn and Mrs J. Evans), 1 Local Authority Governor (Mrs A. Russell), the Headteacher (Mr S. Robson) and 1 Staff Governor (Mrs G. McManus). Ms G. Sale was appointed as an Associate Governor in April.

Mrs Evans has unfortunately been poorly since her appointment and has been unable to attend.

Mr Smith and Mr Thompson offered their resignations at the end of this year, we are very grateful to them for their support over the years. As a result of parent governor elections we welcome Mrs Patterson and Mrs Wilson Bainbridge to the Governing Body in September.

Experience in education, finance, personnel, management and health are valuable to the Governing Body, however, the key attributes that Governors need are time, enthusiasm and an interest in education.

The governing body has a programme of meetings throughout the school year. In addition there are two committees:

Resources Committee, which deals with finance, staffing, buildings, health and safety, safeguarding and security.

School Improvement and Policy Committee, which looks at pupil achievement, school self-evaluation, the school development plan and policies.

Attendance record of governors

A record is kept by the clerk to the governing body, of governors' attendance at meetings; details of attendance can be found on page 2.

Meetings need to be 'quorate' to ensure that decisions can be made. All meetings have been quorate this year.

The work we have done on our committees and in the governing body meetings

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

It has as always been an exceptionally busy year, focusing on school improvement.

One of our main aims this year was to review the **School's Vision and Values**. This started in September with a meeting of all staff and Governors. Questionnaires were sent to parents to gather their opinions about the vision for the school and there were discussions with children throughout the year. We were grateful to those of you who responded to the parent questionnaire and assisted us with this. As a Church of England school the Church and especially Christian values are fundamental to the ethos of the school and the education which pupils receive. We are extremely fortunate to have Mrs Lancaster, our R.E. and Collective Worship as subject leader and Foundation Governors, Mrs Waugh, Reverend Lane and Mrs Jones, Youth Leader to provide support and advice.

The final version of the school vision is now published on the school website. This is a living document and is at the heart of everything we do at the school.

Governors have had a number of discussions over the year about becoming an academy. We have felt that as a small school in a good Local Authority we were better off remaining as a maintained school. The sudden imposition of academisation by the government and subsequent u turn led to further discussions. It would seem that this will be the likely route for all schools eventually. We will continue to look at ways of collaborating with other schools and are part of the Swaledale Teaching Schools Alliance already. The LA and Diocese are providing advice and support for all schools and we will explore all options carefully and keep you fully updated.

Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils

The Headteacher has clear targets set for his performance in the Autumn Term. These are set by three governors with the advice of an external Education Adviser who can look at the performance of the school objectively. The targets are drawn from the developments or improvements the school needs to achieve. The Headteacher's progress towards those targets is monitored and formally evaluated throughout the year. The Headteacher and all other teachers' pay is performance linked. One of our most important roles is to provide support and challenge for Mr Robson as he leads the school in moving forward.

As you are probably aware it is quite a number of years since the school was last inspected. A new Framework was introduced in September so we have been working hard to re-evaluate the school against these new standards. This is done in part by looking at school data and reports of external advisors. Key areas for improvement have been identified. Ambitious targets were set for pupils by the full Governing Body. The progress of all pupils has been monitored. Information gathered through parent and pupil questionnaires has also been reviewed by Governors and areas for development identified.

Governors have monitored areas identified in the School Development Plan and ensured that the new curriculum for English and Maths, with much higher expectations for each year group, has been implemented. New assessment strategies were introduced this year by the Government and Governors have monitored how these have been implemented across the school along with the impact on pupil achievement. This has been an incredibly challenging year for all schools in this regard.

More recently Governors have been looking at the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) self-evaluation. We have been looking at what makes our school distinctive as a Church school. Governors and staff have been involved in training as the standards for this have recently changed.

British Values

Schools now have a duty to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. As Governors we monitor how this is being implemented in school.

Governors regularly visit school. They have specific roles and responsibilities for example Special Educational Needs, Safeguarding or a specific curriculum area. They monitor that area and report back to the full Governing Body. This involves discussions with subject leaders, observation of lessons, book scrutinies, learning walks and conversations with pupils. They do not judge the quality of teaching but monitor the impact of teaching or strategies on pupil outcomes.

Pupil Premium

Governors monitor how Pupil Premium is being spent and what impact it has on children's outcomes. This information is on our school website.

Sports Premium

The link Governor for PE reports to the full Governing Body on how this grant is being spent and the impact it is having on pupils. The report is on the school website.

Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Financial management of the school is overseen by the Resources Committee. They receive monthly budget monitoring statements and updated financial forecasts for school from the Local Authority School Bursar who visits each month.

They plan expenditure to meet the needs identified in the School Development Plan. The full Governing Body approves the school budget for the year. Although school budgets have not been cut, they have not been increased and as a consequence increasing costs have to be absorbed. This has been particularly difficult this year with increases in the national minimum wage, national insurance and superannuation contributions. It is always our aim to achieve best value and we compare our school with similar schools to benchmark this.

Governors have completed a full staffing review this year in part due to the budget constraints but also to recognise the changes in the way children are taught. As a result we have decided to merge the year 5 and 6 classes in the mornings and provide full time teaching support in Class 4 from September. Administration tasks have become much more complex and time consuming over the past years so we have employed an additional part time administrator to assist Mrs Dent in the office in September.

To make the school operate more efficiently Governors have agreed and planned to make some improvements to the school building over the summer. The office/ staffroom is being divided into two to provide a general office and Headteacher's office and the staffroom is moving to the art area, where a new library area is also being created. The old Year 5 room and Out of School Club will be used during the day for group teaching. This is funded from our capital budget, which is a sum of money devolved to all schools for building works only.

The Health and Safety Governor ensures that all Health & Safety issues are addressed and that risk assessments are in place. The Safeguarding Governor reports to Governors on safeguarding matters including the prevention of radicalisation of pupils. Governors are responsible for reviewing and agreeing some policies in school in particular, Child Protection, Health & Safety, Special Educational Needs, Behaviour, Complaints and Pay Policies.

School dinner menus had to be revised this year to bring them in line with new Nutritional and Allergen Standards. These standards have become very onerous and as a consequence after long discussions, Governors took the decision to opt into the County Catering Service from September. The service which they provide is of an extremely high standard and we have looked into it in great depth to ensure a

seamless transition. We are grateful to Mrs Breeze and Mrs Geldard who prepare our excellent meals and will continue to do so in September to ensure the highest quality.

Minutes of the Governing Body meetings are available on the school website once they have been agreed by the full Governing Body.

Governors Development

Many changes happen in the course of a year in terms of educational development and practice. Governors keep on top of these changes by attending relevant training, local and regional conferences. The Governing Board is a member of the National Governors Association. The Chair of Governors visits other schools and clusters for example the Swaledale Teaching Alliance. All Governors complete Child Protection training and Prevent (prevention of radicalisation) training.

Communication

The Governing Body is committed to including parents, staff and pupils and the local community in activities which affect the school. The Chair is often in school as are other governors. We are more than happy to chat to anyone and discuss any concerns.

Future Plans for Governors

The Governing Body will not have any committees next year and there will be two vice chairs, one with responsibility for Resources and one for School Improvement. Governors will be appointed to either Resources or School Improvement and have responsibilities for certain areas/ links. All Governors will attend all meetings: two per term. An annual plan for meetings will ensure that all aspects of Governing Body business is covered. Governors will carry out monitoring visits for their particular area and report their findings at the Governing Body meetings. Governor panels will still exist for Pay review etc.

Staffing

In a small school Governors assist with the appointment of staff. This year has seen some changes in staffing. We welcomed Mr Berriman in September as Year 5 Teacher in the mornings and Class 4 teacher in the afternoons. Mrs Jones provided Teaching Assistant support in Class 4. Mrs Lakey left to take up a full time post at Easter. Mrs Wilford retired in February after working as manager of the Out of School Club since its establishment in January 2001 and Miss Hughes was appointed as Play Worker to work alongside Miss Wilford. Mrs Hart, a specialist SEN Teacher, joined us on a part time basis in April. Miss Turnbull joined the staff as General Teaching Assistant.

In order to give teaching staff Planning Preparation and Assessment time, Apollo Arts have provided excellent whole class music lessons in school for children in classes 2, 3 and 4 and gymnastics lessons in class 2. Mrs Vardy has taught French in Classes 3 and 4. Both have been thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

School Year

Governors are justifiably proud of our school and recognise that we have a wonderful team of staff who embrace changes and work tirelessly to provide the best possible outcomes for the children in all aspects of life. These achievements are celebrated by everyone.

Update below

Congratulations to the children in Years 1, 2 and 6 who have recently completed their statutory assessments. Year 1 children sat their phonics assessment and have performed well above 2014 average national levels of achievement. Teacher assessments at the end of Key Stage 1 in Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science indicate that the percentage of nationally expected level 2b+ has been exceeded.

Our Year 6 pupils have achieved at least the nationally expected level 4+ in Reading, Writing, Grammar Punctuation and Spelling and Science. This year one child achieved Level 6 in Spelling, Punctuation and

Grammar and one child achieved Level 6 in both Spelling Punctuation and Grammar and Maths which is a fantastic achievement. Results have been communicated to individual parents.

Attendance is closely monitored by the Governing Body. It sets targets for it annually. This year it has been above the national average at 96.8%.

The school curriculum been reviewed and enhanced this year and this will continue. Miss Rogan led English and has introduced new methods for teaching Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar and an effective system of teaching and assessing reading. Cursive handwriting has been introduced across the school and writing across the curriculum has been a focus too. Mrs Lancaster led ICT this year, and initiatives to improve Pupil Voice in school including the School Council. She also started the Archie Bishop citizenship project in her class and is reviewing our RE and Collective Worship provision. Mrs McManus has led Maths, including reviewing the Calculations Policy and many new opportunities for recalling facts and reasoning. She has also led Science and pupils' learning skills across the school.

You may have seen the new WOW display in the school hall which celebrates special pieces of children's work and there is a writing journey on display showing development from Reception to Year 6.

Drama and music have always been strengths in school. This year, two incredible productions were staged at Christmas. Well done to all the children and everyone involved in the productions they were outstanding. The new school audio visual system funded by the Friends of the School has enhanced this. As mentioned previously Classes 2, 3 and 4 have had the opportunity to have whole school music lessons delivered by Apollo Arts. There is an excellent take up of music lessons in school including violin, woodwind, guitar and piano. Many children have taken the opportunity to learn to play recorders with Mrs Schmidt. Children showcased their talents at the wonderful Strawberries and Cream Concert.

The art curriculum has been enhanced with a traditional arts and crafts project in Class 3 led by Mrs Pyrah. Mrs Connolly worked with the children in Discoverers Club to design and create a mosaic for the front of the altar in the hall. We are very grateful for their support and the wonderful opportunity for children.

Mrs Prudhoe has led many improvements in Early Years. The new Baseline assessment introduced this year has recently been abandoned by the government. She was responsible for our successful renewal of the International School Award, which demonstrates the schools commitment to global education.

School visits have included a 3 day residential to East Barnby and visits to Arbeia Roman Fort, Croft Christmas Trees, Preston Park and York to see Groovy Greeks at the theatre. These have given children new and practical learning experiences which enhanced the curriculum taught in school. Visitors to school have included the author Dan Smith. Years 5 and 6 children read a book written by him to inspire their topic of the second world war. Dan talked about creative writing and answered many questions. Jay's animal encounters provided an exciting learning experience for Reception and Class 2 pupils. Whole school workshops have included a Diversity Day, when all children worked together in mixed aged groups to look at a variety of religions and British Values.

Mr Berriman has led P.E. this year. Well done to our sports' teams who have competed in a variety of different sports this year. The government sports grant has enabled us to be part of the Richmond cluster for Sports. This funding has enabled us to provide professional development for our staff, buy some new sports equipment, provide a variety of sports activities for all children and to join in additional inter- school sports competitions. As a result more children have taken part in optional activities and the children have grown in confidence. A full report is on the school website.

Another important part of the curriculum is teaching children to become mindful of climate change and the impact it has. The Climate Cops and Miss Rogan continue to improve our environment.

The Out of School Club provides an excellent service for parents and children. Coral, Kerry and Emma work extremely hard to provide a home from home with lots of fun activities. Attendance during holidays is still quite low which has given governors some cause for concern but we will try to retain this valuable holiday club if at all possible.

The Friends of the School play a crucial part in school. They work tirelessly to raise much needed funds for equipment in school. As budgets become tighter the fund raising becomes increasingly important and we are extremely grateful for everyone's efforts. Please support them.

It is impossible to mention everyone and everything that happens in school over the course of a year. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our exceptional, hardworking and dedicated staff; to the children for always trying their best and to you as parents and carers for your support.

Next year will be just as exciting and of course challenging in its way. It is a privilege to be a governor to be involved in such a lovely school community.

Finally,

Best wishes to those children leaving us this summer.

We look forward to seeing everyone else in September. Have a lovely summer.

Strategic Planning for the future

The School Development Plan 15 -16 focussed on the following areas:

-
- The quality of teaching and use of assessment information to ensure that more pupils are appropriately challenged
- Learning behaviours to ensure that pupils are more resilient and have greater aspirations of what they can achieve
- Ensuring that greater proportions of pupils make more than expected progress
- Increasing the proportions of pupils who achieve more than expected outcomes in Early Years

Governing Body attendance at meetings **update**

Governor	Full Governing Body (5)
Alison Russell	4
Philip Thompson	2
Paul Knapp	2
David Smith	2
Susan Thornton	4
Derek Blenkharn	4
Jean Evans	0 Illness
Viv Waugh	3
Jenni Lane	0 Resigned February 2016
Simon Robson	4
Gemma McManus	3
Georgie Sale	1 Appointed April 2016

How to contact your governing body

Information about the school's governing body is available on the governors' page of the school's website croftprimaryschool.org.

E mail the Chair of Governors at:

CofG@croft.n-yorks.sch.uk

Or leave a message/ letter at the school office.