



**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body
of Croft Church of England Primary School
July 2015**

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) 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 C. Jones), 1 Local Authority Governor (Mrs A. Russell), the Headteacher (Mr S. Robson) and 1 Staff Governor (Mrs G. McManus).

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.

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

This year has seen very significant changes in staffing as Mrs Higgins retired as Headteacher at Christmas after almost 18 years. Mr Robson was welcomed to school as our new Headteacher in January.

Mr Price, Year 6 teacher and Mrs Youll, Early Years teacher left at Christmas, the former for promotion in another school and the later for well-deserved retirement. Mrs Bradshaw left at Easter to take up a full time teaching post. Mrs Prudhoe took on the full time role in Early Years and Miss Whipps was appointed as Year 5 teacher. Miss Rogan took on the role of Year 6 teacher. Miss Whipps will be leaving at the end of this term to take up a post nearer to home and we will welcome Mr Berriman in September.

It has as always been an exceptionally busy year. One of our most important roles has been to provide support for Mr Robson as our new Headteacher.

Throughout the year changes, some of which are planned through the school development process, and some of which are imposed through government strategy are many, varied and sometimes challenging. I am pleased to say that our outstanding team of staff embrace those changes and work tirelessly to provide the best possible outcomes for the children in all aspects of life.

Governors regularly visit school. They have roles and responsibilities for example Special Educational Needs, safeguarding or a specific curriculum 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.

Financial management of the school is overseen by the Resources Committee. They receive monthly budget monitoring statements and updated financial forecasts for school. They plan expenditure to meet the needs identified in the School Development Plan. Although school budgets have not been cut, they have not been increased and as a consequence increasing costs have to be absorbed. It is always our aim to achieve best value.

Mr Robson has been working exceptionally hard on preparing staff and developing a new tracking system in school as the old level system (2, 3, 4 etc) is being abandoned this September. In addition he has overseen the introduction of the new legislation and processes for pupils with Special Educational Needs across the school.

As you are probably aware it is quite a number of years since the school was last inspected. In that time the standards, which we must measure ourselves against, have changed at least three times and are more challenging with every change. Yet another Framework is being introduced in September so we will be working hard to re-evaluate the school once more.

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 in school over the year has been above the national average at 96.8%.

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 Miss Gamble, our R.E. and Collective Worship as subject leader and Foundation Governors, Mrs Waugh and more recently the Reverend Lane to provide support and advice.

The new school curriculum has been introduced this year and we will be reviewing and enhancing this next year. Miss Gamble became subject leader for ICT in September. The new computer programming curriculum is now being taught and there has been increased emphasis on e safety. Mrs McManus has led Maths and Science this year ensuring that the new curricula in those areas have been delivered across the school.

Drama and music have always been strengths in school. This year, three incredible productions were staged at Christmas. Well done to all the children and everyone involved in the productions they were

outstanding. Classes 2, 3 and 4 have had the opportunity to have whole school musical instrument lessons funded through the Wider Opportunities scheme. There is an excellent take up of music lessons in school including violin, brass, woodwind, drums, 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. Miss Rogan has run Glee Club throughout the year and they celebrated with a high quality performance this summer.

The art curriculum has been enhanced with whole school workshops with an artist in residence to create three new school banners for the school hall. All will be revealed soon! The school has also been working with the village to celebrate 150 years of Lewis Carroll through various arts projects.

Mrs Prudhoe has led many improvements in Early Years and has led the school through the application to renew our International School Award. There have been a variety of activities throughout the year which have raised children's awareness of other parts of the world with an emphasis on Children's Rights. Children have learnt about the 'send a friend to school campaign', we have developed links with two new schools one in Kenya, and another in Malawi and have been involved in 'Keyhole gardens and Send a Cow' projects.

Year 6 children were involved in the Small Schools Cluster debate at County Hall and the democratically elected School Council has been active in representing their fellow classmates in and around school.

School visits have included Bowes Museum, the Life Centre, River Lab, Newby Hall and Croft Christmas Trees. These have given children new and practical learning experiences which enhanced the curriculum taught in school.

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 some 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, Miss Rogan and Mrs Bradshaw successfully led the school to renewing our Eco Schools Green Flag this was a fantastic achievement.

School dinner menus have been revised this year to bring them in line with the new Government Standards and from September free school meals for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 were introduced. I am pleased to report that uptake is extremely good. We are grateful to Mrs Breeze and Mrs Geldard who prepare our excellent meals using local top quality produce to ensure the highest standards.

The Out of School Club provides an excellent service for parents and children. Coral and Kerry work extremely hard to provide a home from home with lots of fun activities. Attendance during holidays has fallen 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. Thanks to them and the donations of others we have been able to resurface the soft safety surface under the play equipment. More recently fund raising efforts have been focussed on purchasing a new audio visual system for the school hall, which will enhance our daily collective worship and the wonderful concerts and productions. Thanks also go to the parent

administrators of the 100 Club who provide much needed funding for extracurricular activities. 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, Miss Gamble will be returning to school in September as Mrs Lancaster as she is getting married in August. We all wish her every happiness.

Best wishes to those children and staff leaving us this summer.

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

Approved minutes of the GB are available on the school's website.

Strategic Planning for the future

The School Development Plan for 14 -15 focussed on the following areas:

- Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar across the school
- Attainment of more able pupils
- Improving the numbers of pupils making 3 levels progress from the end of year 2 to the end of year 6. (2 levels progress is expected, 3 levels is above expected progress)
- Early Years and readiness for Year 1

Governors have been monitoring these priorities in the School Development Plan throughout the year. Monitoring and evaluation by external advisers helps support the school in this.

Governing Body attendance at meetings

Governor	Full Governing Body (6)
Alison Russell	6
Philip Thompson	4
Paul Knapp	6
David Smith	4
Susan Thornton	5
Derek Blenkharn	6
Clare Jones	4
Viv Waugh	5
Jenni Lane	1
Brenda Higgins/ Simon Robson	6
Gemma McManus	5

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.