

Devonshire Road Primary School

Annual Statement of The Governing Board September 2022 – July 2023

Throughout the school year 2022-23, the governing board have monitored, evaluated and supported Devonshire Road to continue to develop and to meet the priorities of the school development plan. This is done across our committee meetings and additional visits.

We have been proud to support the school through its OFSTED inspection and as a whole board we were able to have a positive impact on the inspection. Achieving a “Good” grading with “Outstanding” personal development reflects our school ethos and we are extremely proud of this.

We have continued to meet our statutory responsibilities of monitoring Safeguarding and school finances. We have reviewed school policies within our monitoring on a rolling schedule and in line with government priorities, such as Attendance.

As a board, we have our own priorities for the school year alongside the School Development Plan, this year we focused on reviewing our working practices to ensure we are as strategic as we can be and on increasing our visibility within the school community.

The board has a range of skills and experience and provides robust challenge to the school Senior Leadership Team.

**Pupil Welfare Committee – Chair Lynsey O’Sullivan**

The Pupil Welfare committee have worked together alongside school staff to continue to build on the school’s excellent work in relation to children’s wellbeing.

The remit of this committee includes a variety of subjects including Safeguarding, Mental health & wellbeing, Attendance data, Global citizenship & pupil behaviour. Some highlights of this year include the committee’s time spent listening to pupils and parent/carers through a range of surveys and face to face meetings to ensure that governors listen carefully to the thoughts, feedback and ideas of our school community. The committee has then used this feedback to inform decisions taken by the board.

Other highlights include investing in and supporting our staff and board to develop increased knowledge & experience through training and professional development to support our Mental health & wellbeing, Transgender & Safeguarding policies; underpinning our passion & commitment to ensuring equality, safety & fairness for all pupils and staff.

As recognised in our recent OFSTED inspection; at Devonshire Road Primary School we strive to provide a secure and nurturing environment in which children achieve, rise to challenges, learn and grow with pride and confidence Devonshire Road prioritises the highest possible standards of pupil welfare; to make sure we really can bring out the best in everyone!

**Quality of Provision Committee – Chair Marie Ahmad**

This committee’s work focuses on the monitoring of curriculum provision, teaching & learning and achievement & standards.

The Committee spent time across the last year working with the Headteacher to consider the school’s Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) provision. The Covid 19 pandemic had disrupted face-to-face sessions which had been historically arranged for parents and carers of our Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 children to look over and discuss the resources used in the delivery of lessons. Governors and the Headteacher agreed to put these back in place this year, acknowledging the importance of parents and carers having the opportunity to see the materials in person.

Governors received feedback which parents and carers had provided during these sessions and this has been subsequently used to shape how we deliver elements of the lessons.

The Committee received and reviewed attainment and progress data for each year group at each of its termly meetings. This assisted Governors to monitor the impact of teaching and learning and progress in different subjects and year groups. Data is one source of evidence of pupil outcomes, but does not always provide clarity on progress, particularly for our pupils with special educational needs. Governors discussed the limitations of data and the Headteacher agreed to provide supplementary information for the committee’s summer term meeting in the format of case study reporting on SEND so that wider impact could be clearly evidenced. This enhanced the monitoring activities of Governors in this area of the school’s provision.

Each term, the committee considered whole school data alongside teaching and learning strategies in place to support pupils and staff. The committee also received the findings of pupil voice activities which enabled Governors to hear how pupils feel about their learning as well as understand how the views of our children are used by school leaders to improve our school.

**Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee – Chair Hazra Akuji**

What a fantastic and successful year 2022 -2023 was. Despite all the financial difficulties we have been presented with during these economically challenging times, the board has effectively managed to monitor and maintain a positive budget without compromising on the fantastic provision provided to our staff and children.

We have focused on key areas such as an increase in energy costs, increase in price of fundamental resources, staffing wage increases and ensured that we have explored and found resolutions and alternatives where possible.

We are extremely pleased with the additions to our school playground and hope that these spaces allow the children to explore and thrive. We have been looking at ways to maintain the upkeep of our school building and to improve and update facilities within and these have been factored into our ongoing plan.

We keep staff wellbeing at the forefront of our decision making, as well as monitoring the effectiveness of Continuous Professional Development for all staff, to allow everyone to thrive in their roles.

We are mindful of the economic challenges that lie ahead but are confident that together we will succeed.

This statement is designed to provide an outline to all our stakeholders around the work that the governor board have undertaken throughout 2022-23. If anyone is interested in finding out more about the work of our board, we can be contacted via the school office.

**Katie Edern, Chair of Governors**

**Chairs of committees**

[Governance | Devonshire Road Primary School](https://www.devonshire.bolton.sch.uk/about-us/governance)

Be kind. Be curious. Be the best you can be.