

Co-Chair of Governors Statement 2021

Shelley First School Governing Body

Head Teacher- Deborah Knowles

Co-Chair of Governors- Tracy Pinnock and Daniel Baker

Vice Chair of Governors- Julia Moorhouse

Governors- Jason Field, Chris Hill, Gareth Palmer, Lisa Pugh

Dear all,

For the most part it has been business as usual for the governors at Shelley First school, but the last twelve months or so have been anything but usual. A timely move to MS teams by the Mast Multi Academy Trust proved invaluable in keeping us informed and enabled us to continue with our termly meetings and training. It also provided a channel with which to keep those informal conversations going, vital for governors to keep up with the day-to-day challenges that inevitably presented themselves during such a tumultuous period.

The pandemic has given us all challenges that we have never had to face before, making life more virtual but no less complicated. Mrs Knowles and the senior leadership team have faced all the challenges head on and have strived to ensure Shelley First School remains an outstanding, happy and secure environment in which children thrive and develop spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically.

One of our fundamental roles as governors is to give our support to the school, no more so than this year. However, we challenge and question when appropriate to ensure the core values and ethos of Shelley First are continually upheld. Our primary focus is the children, and we keep this in mind whilst monitoring and supporting school to:

- Ensure pupils still enjoy school, feel valued and part of the school community - this is done by evaluating results from both parent/carer and pupil surveys, so a big thank you to all that responded.
- Oversee the return to school following both lockdowns, the recovery curriculum and wellbeing initiatives for both staff and pupils.
- Ensure pupil attainment is monitored and maximised, as you may know our attendance rate is well above the national average.
- Oversee and approve the school's budget, we have just recently looked at next year's budget, ensuring that the staffing structure fits within this and whether we can improve the school building too.
- Ensure the staff are supported as needed, we have been involved in putting a wellbeing policy in place and review staff surveys.
- Approve policies and procedures, some new policies have been the phonics policy and wellbeing policies.

- Monitor the provision for learning.
- Ensure the Pupil Premium grant, Sports Premium Funding and Covid Premium are being used effectively,
- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction, we will delve into this more deeply in our last meeting at the end of June, where we will plan, alongside the SLT, the school's priorities for next year. We do this by looking at the current priorities, strengths and weaknesses of the school, results from pupil tests, feedback from teachers, parents, carers and pupils. We also consider the current climate and monetary situation.

New to the Trust this year has been the introduction of the Trust wide development groups, these have been extremely well received by the governors at SFS, evidenced by the enthusiasm with which the meetings have been relayed back to the wider governing body. This year the focus has been on staff and pupil wellbeing and increasing reading opportunities for pupils. A wellbeing strategy has been created, alongside a staff wellbeing policy and pupil wellbeing policy. We will hopefully approve these at our next governing body meeting. We look forward to seeing how the Trust wide collaborations evolve, enabling us to better support the school with confidence and knowledge. We have also attended various Trust training courses such as Safeguarding, Risk Management and Being Strategic amongst others and we have completed visits, remotely. We have also supported staff structure changes and recruitment by being part of interview panels.

We have recently recruited a new member to the board, Chris Hill and he is undergoing induction training and has attended one meeting. We are providing mentoring support as needed to help him fulfil the role.

It has been difficult at times to show just how appreciative we are of our staff at SFS, their resilience, creativity and professionalism this last year has really blown us away. Our usual gesture of a couple of boxes of biscuits and some chocolate in the staff room seemed insignificant, as well as a logistical impossibility what with bubbles and social distancing. This led us to arrange for a mobile barista to be at the school gates, and thus on a rather chilly March morning we joined the staff for an outdoor coffee morning as they arrived in school, and for a short time it felt like old times, with some lovely stories, lots of smiles, and hopefully a morale booster for all.

We would both like to thank you for the support you have given school over the last year, here's hoping that by September bubbles will be a thing of the past and Children at Shelley First School can take part in all of the wonderful extra curricula activities that are the Shelley norm. Hope you all have a lovely summer.

Daniel and Tracy