

# Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Barnes Farm Infants School

“Building Futures, Inspiring Success”

## Aims

These aims are designed to ensure that the school meets the needs of all, taking into account gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, disability, level of ability, sexual orientation, age and social circumstances. We strive to include and engage all pupils and to prepare them for full participation in a diverse society.

## **We aim to:**

- Create an inclusive community, in which everyone is equally valued, regardless of gender, race, culture, religion or disability;
- Strengthen partnerships between pupils, staff, parents, governors and the wider community;
- Develop an awareness, tolerance, respect and understanding of other cultures and different ways of life;
- Encourage social, moral, spiritual and cultural growth;
- Developing confidence, self-esteem, respect and responsibility for ourselves and our environment;
- Provide a creative and challenging curriculum which encourages independence and
- Promotes life-long learning and high aspirations;
- Raise awareness of personal safety while providing a secure environment with clear and effective procedures ensuring the safety of everyone;
- Create a positive, vibrant environment which motivates and inspires;
- Promote the importance of a healthy lifestyle;
- Equip pupils with the skills and knowledge to function well as citizens of the future;
- Recognise and nurture the unique abilities and achievements of each pupil.

**The Governing Body of Barnes Farm Infants School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:**

1. Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and it's pupils;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.



<p><b>Governance arrangements</b></p>	<p>The Governing Body of Barnes Farm Infants School consists of the following members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Headteacher</li> <li>• 2 Staff Governors</li> <li>• 1 LA Governor</li> <li>• 7 Co-opted Governors</li> <li>• 2 Parent Governors</li> </ul> <p>All governors undertake a comprehensive Knowledge and Skills Audit on an annual basis, in order that the Board can continue to identify an appropriate and expert skills base. This exercise also assists to identify any potential 'skills gaps' should there be any future governor elections.</p> <p>All Governors hold an enhanced DBS Certificate and conform to the Disqualification Disclosure Criteria.</p> <p>The full Governing Body meets at least once each term and we also have the following committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance and Premises</li> <li>• Pay and Personnel</li> <li>• Curriculum and Pupil Related Matters</li> </ul> <p>The 3 committees meet to consider different aspects of the school in detail.</p> <p>Individually our Governors additionally have areas of special responsibility and visit the school and any relevant parties to improve their knowledge and understanding of these areas. These areas of special responsibilities include SEN, Safeguarding, Pupil Premium and Transition.</p> <p>Governors are welcomed in to school each term to monitor a curriculum area. Monitoring information is shared at governing body meetings.</p>
<p><b>Attendance record of governors</b></p>	<p>Most governors have an excellent attendance record at meetings and we have never had to cancel a meeting because it was not quorate (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).</p> <p><i>See Appendix 1 for attendance</i></p>
<p><b>The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body</b></p>	<p>The Governing Body has had a particularly busy year supporting the school in a number of areas including school improvement, the school structure and its many different policies and procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff Appointments. The Governors have been involved in a number of new appointments including our new DHT and EYFS lead for September 2017. This includes being part of the shortlisting and interview processes.</li> <li>• Leadership Transition. The Governing Body has and continues to</li> </ul>



	<p>support school leaders with their transition into the school and will continue to do this for next year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attainment and progress of pupils. Governors monitor the attainment and progress of all pupils each term. This includes information from the Headteacher reports, Raise Online and other data available at the time.</li> <li>• Policy Review. The Governing Body have ratified several statutory policies this year. Updates to policies have included the Behaviour Management and Attendance Policy.</li> <li>• Pupil Premium. Time has been spent focussing on how PP money has been spent by the school together with what impact the funding and subsequent additional curriculum support has had on outcomes. Governors consider the outcomes of all children and continually challenge the curriculum.</li> <li>• Finance. The Finance Committee had the responsibility of approving the 2017/18 budget in compliance with the Schools Financial Value Standards. Governors are pleased to report that, at the present time, the school in in a satisfactory financial position.</li> <li>• Safeguarding. A priority for Governors is the safeguarding of children. The Boards safeguarding Governor is Mrs Hards. In this role Mrs Hards is responsible for the delivery of a termly report to the Board as a whole about any safeguarding matters/issues. The whole Governing Body has been proactive in securing a safe environment both in and outside school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Future Plans for the Governors</b></p>	<p>The Board of Governors are looking forward to the challenges which the Autumn Term will bring. Governors are also looking forward to working on their own training resources. The role of a Governor is not only a responsible and demanding one, but is also a constantly changing role. Due to work commitments it is not always possible for Governors to access training courses that are delivered during the working day. As a result of this, the Board have established a good 'web' of additional support and guidance through the Local Authority, the National Governors Association (NGA) and Ofsted.</p>
<p><b>How you can contact the Governing Body</b></p>	<p>The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers.</p> <p>Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school office or by emailing:</p> <p><a href="mailto:Chair@barnesfarm-inf.essex.sch.uk">Chair@barnesfarm-inf.essex.sch.uk</a></p> <p>Details of the full Governing Body are also on the school website.</p> <p><a href="http://www.barnesfarminfants.co.uk/page/?title=Governors&amp;pid=56">http://www.barnesfarminfants.co.uk/page/?title=Governors&amp;pid=56</a></p>



Kind regards

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