

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of Mowbray School

31 March 2018

In accordance with the Government's requirements for all Governing boards, the three core strategic functions of Mowbray School Governing Board are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure it's money is well spent

Governance arrangements

The Governing board of Mowbray School, reconstituted in 2015, is made up of:

- 2 Parent governors
- 1 Staff governor
- 1 Head teacher
- 1 Local Authority governor
- 7 Co-opted governors

The range of skills brought to the governing body which contribute to the effective governance and the success of the school are as follows:

- an enthusiasm to learn about and understand the work of the school and use personal skills to the benefit of the school
- an understanding of good business governance and financial management
- knowledge of education in general and a good understanding of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and the effect this has on curriculum
- the ability to interpret and understand pupil and other performance data and indicators
- experience in the well-being and safeguarding of children and health care in general
- knowledge of Buildings and Maintenance
- an awareness of Health and Safety requirements
- an understanding of personnel management
- a willingness to attend meetings, visit the school and contribute to its success

The full Governing board has a programme of 5 meetings throughout the school year and such additional meetings as prove necessary. The work of the governing body is delegated to 3 principal subcommittees as follows:

- **Business Subcommittee** which has a remit which covers Finance, Human resources, Head teacher review and general issues relating to the "business" of running Mowbray School
- **Teaching, Learning and Student well-being Subcommittee** which has the re-met of ensuring and monitoring the curriculum, the learning process and progress of students, monitoring

teacher performance and considering ways of improvement and support. The committee also considers child safeguarding and associated issues

- **Health, Safety and School well being Subcommittee** which has the remit of all issues relating to the maintenance and improvement of the fabric and facilities of the school, health and safety aspects of the school itself as well as those of its students and staff.

The Subcommittees meet on at least 3 occasions each year and such other times as may be deemed necessary. The Subcommittees report back to the Full governing board summarising the work they have undertaken and their recommendations.

During the year the following number of meetings were held:

- | | |
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| • Full Governing Board | 5 |
| • Business Subcommittee | 6 |
| • Teaching, Learning and Student well-being Subcommittee | 5 |
| • Health, Safety and School well-being Subcommittee | 3 |

In addition the Chair and Vice-chair of governors have regular meetings with the Head teacher and attend other meetings as necessary with the local authority and other agencies to understand and promote key issues with regard to the improvement and development of Mowbray School.

Governors are encouraged to visit the school and take part in 'learning walks' to gain a better understanding of the school. The Chair and Chair of the Teaching Learning and Student Well being Subcommittee attend at least one meeting of the School Council each year.

One governor has special link responsibility for pupil safeguarding issues and another governor has responsibility as a liaison link for staff well-being and similar issues.

The work we have done through the Governing Board meetings and Governor Link Roles.

The number of children at school now exceeds 210 pupils and all resources are fully utilised. The Governing board continue to be actively involved in making best use of its financial resources to ensure that the facilities within the school and the necessary efficient and effective staffing, leadership and management structures continue to be in place so that the school is well placed to inspire and support the needs of all its students.

The Governors continue to fully support the development of a curriculum which ensures a learning focus on communication, skills for life and personal well-being which encompasses all the needs of our diverse school student population. The Governing body recognises and encourages the reinforcement of leadership and management within the school and the continuing development of the senior leadership team.

In carrying out their work the Governors recognise the tremendous commitment of all members of staff within Mowbray School and acknowledge with thanks their individual enthusiasm, dedication

and hard work. In doing this they fully support and promote all measures which improve the well-being of staff.

In December 2017 Mowbray School had a 'Short' Ofsted inspection which reaffirmed that in Ofsted's opinion the school is a 'good school' and "maintains a good quality of education within the school". The Governors confirm that the senior leadership team is addressing all points that were raised during the inspection to ensure the continued excellent improvement within the school but at the same time Governors were pleased that Ofsted commented that the school provides "Good opportunities for pupils' personal development" and recognised that the "strong relationships between pupils and staff continue to be at the core of the school's work".

The Governors believe that they have in place robust structures to ensure that they are well informed with regard to reviewing, monitoring and improving performance at all levels. Governors are able to identify areas where additional support may be necessary and focus encouragement and the resources necessary.

As reported previously the Governors are very conscious of the pressure placed on the school and its staff by the demand for places, where if capacity allowed, the school could satisfy need.

The Governors had hoped that by forming a Multi Academy Trust together with other similar schools in North Yorkshire that, in part, this need for places could have been addressed. During the year it has become clear and, now confirmed by the Department for Education, that this option is now not a practical alternative.

The Governing body has supported the senior leadership team in considering the possibility of satisfying need by opening a satellite primary provision in Ripon. This project has been considered and costed in depth and the proposal, subject to certain safeguards, has been agreed in principle by the Governors.

The Governors are determined to ensure that student outcomes are the best that can be individually achieved and are pleased that the school continues to perform exceptionally well. This is reflected not only at each key stage but also in examination success. The Governors were pleased that during the year the school was accredited and re-accredited by the following national bodies: –

- National Autistic Society (NAS)
- Youth Support Trust – Lead Inclusive School
- School Games Sports Award – Gold Mark
- Eco-school – ongoing
- School Farm Network – Farm Leadership (finalist)

The work of the Governing board is summarised in the minutes of its meetings which are available through the school office.

Strategic Planning for the future

Within the existing financial constraints the Governors' priority for the forthcoming year is to ensure that outcomes for all our students are better than the results expected. Governors will support the

continuing improvement to curriculum to ensure it is based upon developing each pupil's communication skills; teaching pupils the skills they will need for life and to help them improve and maintain their personal well-being.

In recognising that the senior leadership team constantly strive for improvement, the Governors will ensure that any points noted or raised by Ofsted are fully addressed to ensure the continuation, within the school, of a constant striving for best practice, a safe environment in which to learn and prosper and best outcomes.

The Governors will contribute, consider and agree revisions to the School Priorities and Vision for the future 2018 to 2021 which is currently being prepared by the senior leadership team. This will consider:

- Overall effectiveness of the quality and standards of education,
- Effectiveness of leadership and management,
- Quality of teaching, learning and assessment,
- Personal development behaviour and welfare,
- Outcomes for pupils, and
- Facilities

The Governing body will undertake further work with regard to the provision of a satellite primary facility in Ripon and approach NYCC's Education Department for their input, views and support. No final decision will be made by the Governing board without the confidence that such an arrangement is viable, will in no way adversely affect the quality of education and outcomes for existing students of Mowbray School and a full consultation with Parents, the local authority, and other stakeholders.

How to contact your Governing Board

Information about the school's Governing Board is available on the governors' page of the school's website

Mowbray School Governing Board – Membership

	Category	Start date	End date	Position
Robert Dunning	Co-opted	01 Sep 2014	31 Aug 2018	Chair
Cherie Miles	Co-opted	28 Sep 2014	27 Sep 2018	Vice Chair
Helen Peacock	Co-opted	28 Sep 2013	22 Mar 2019	
Fiona Pearman	Co-opted	04 Dec 2012	22 Mar 2019	Staff link
David Siddall	Co-opted	31 Aug 2014	30 Aug 2018	
Andrew Wilkinson	Co-opted	01 Sep 2015	31 Aug 2019	
David Yea	Co-opted	30 Sep 2014	29 Sep 2018	
Jonathan Tearle	Headteacher	n/a	n/a	
Anne Herbert	Local Authority	01 Sep 2013	13 Sept 2021	Safeguarding link

Simon Holden	Parent	21 Apr 2015	20 Apr 2019	
Jen Berry	Parent	28 Nov 2017	27 Nov 2021	Training link
Angela Staple	Staff	21 Apr 2015	20 Apr 2019	
Karen Pickles	Associate	14 Mar 2017	13 Mar 2018	

On 24th January 2018 Karen Pickles, the Deputy Headteacher, was reappointed an Associate Member of the Governing body for a further year. It is believed that her knowledge and involvement in the leadership of the school provides invaluable support not only to the Governing body as a whole but also to the Teaching, Learning and Student well-being Subcommittee to which she is also appointed. David Siddall retired as a Governor on 24th January 2018.

Mowbray School Governors' Attendance record for 2017/18

Number of Meetings Attended	FGB Meetings (out of 5 meetings in total)	Business Committee	Teaching, Learning and Student Well-being Committee (out of 5 meetings in total)	Health and Safety and staff Well-being Committee
Robert Dunning	5	5	5	-
Cherie Miles	4	4	-	0
Helen Peacock	5	4	-	-
Fiona Pearman	3	-	-	3
David Siddall	1	-	-	-
Andrew Wilkinson	1	-	-	-
David Yea	3	-	-	3
Jonathan Tearle	5	6	5	3
Anne Herbert	5	-	5	-
Simon Holden	3	2	3	-
Jen Berry	3	-	2	-
Angela Staple	5	-	4	-
Karen Pickles			5	

Key

- Not a member of that committee

Please note this record does not reflect visits to school, learning walks, separate non-scheduled meetings, training and attendance at panel meetings. David Siddall resigned on 4th March 2018.