

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of
Durham Gilesgate Primary School 2015**

Our Vision
To be an outstanding school

Our Mission is to provide:-
Inspirational, innovative and inclusive learning in a supportive, caring environment and in partnership with our families and community.

Our Motto
Nurturing to Flourish

The Governing Body of Durham Gilesgate Primary School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

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, and the performance management of staff; and**
3. **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Durham Gilesgate Primary School was re-constituted in October 2014 and with effect from 1st September 2015 it will comprise four **Parent Governors**, one **Local Authority Governor**, one **Staff Governor**, 1 **Headteacher Governor** and eight **Co-opted Governors**.

The full Governing Body meets once each term and the work of the Governing Body is delegated to a number of committees who have powers to make decisions and advise the full Governing Body. The committees are:-

Finance: which deals with the school budget

Personnel: which deals with the appointment of staffing

Premises: which deals with the building and grounds

Pupil Welfare: which oversees the schools pastoral role including safeguarding, health & safety, E-safety, and behaviour.

Curriculum: which oversees what is taught

First/Pay review: which deals with teachers' pay and staffing issues.

The Governing Body has completed a skills audit and has used this to identify which Governors are best suited to be on each committee. Some Governors have also taken on a special interest role and they pay additional visits to school to find out about what the school, does in their area of interest and report this back to the Full Governing Body.

Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body

In the academic year 2014-2015 the Governing Body has dealt with a number of Key Issues.

They have completed a skills audit and used this to inform their own Governing Body Development Plan which includes training.

As a result of this plan Governors:-

Have focussed their training on areas where skills are weakest.

Have ensured that all statutory policies are up to date

Have taken a greater part in monitoring the improvements that the school is making

	<p>Are becoming more involved in school self-evaluation and holding leaders to account</p> <p>Across the year Governors have:- Ensured the implementation of the revised National Curriculum and how this is taught. This includes the scrutiny of medium term planning, discussions with key staff about the curriculum and discussions with senior leaders about work in books.</p> <p>Reviewed school performance data to ensure that the school is focussing on the right development priorities. There has been a strong emphasis on making sure that all children and all groups of children make progress year by year. A Governor with special interest for the Pupil Premium has helped the school ensure that 'vulnerable' groups of children make good progress.</p> <p>Ensured that safeguarding and health & safety procedures are implemented. Special Interest Governors have ensured compliance with policy and have overseen the impact of the school's E-safety provision.</p> <p>Ensured that a budget has been set within the limits of the funding made available to school and that financial resources are used cost effectively.</p> <p>Monitored the schools spending in computing and the provision for I Pads, programming and ICT infrastructure.</p> <p>Overseen the use of additional funding to develop provision for 2 year olds starting in the new academic year.</p> <p>Worked with the Headteacher to appoint two new teachers who will start in September 2015.</p> <p>Worked with staff and other stakeholders to redefine the vision and mission for our school.</p>
<p>Assessment of Impact</p>	<p>The impact of the work undertaken by the Governing Body is that:-</p> <p>Governors have a greater understanding of the strategic role that they play in leading and managing the school.</p> <p>Minutes reflect the level of challenge that Governors provide in questioning the Headteacher and Senior Leaders about actions that are taken by the school to raise standards, keep children safe and comply with statutory duties.</p> <p>Governors have a better understanding of the school's performance compared to other schools.</p> <p>Progress measures for pupils attending the school have improved again.</p>
<p>Future plans for the Governing Body</p>	<p>In the future the Governing Body will:-</p> <p>Review progress made towards targets in the Governing Body</p>

	<p>Development Plan.</p> <p>Work with staff to review the school's performance.</p> <p>Continue to provide both challenge and support to the Headteacher and Senior Leaders in respect of the school improvement plan.</p> <p>Attend school in their special interest capacity on a more regular basis.</p> <p>Monitor the introduction and impact of the 2 year old places which will be introduced in 2015 – 2016.</p> <p>Continue to monitor the school budget and its future financial plans.</p>
<p>Contact Details</p>	<p>The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school office.</p> <p>Details of the full Governing Body are on the school website.</p>