

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Crook Primary School
2021/22**

School Vision/Mission Statement

Believe and Achieve:

We “believe and achieve” by Taking risks and learning from our mistakes. Having informed opinions and respecting others. Being Curious

In Key Stage 1

We also want to become more confident and believe in ourselves. We want to learn to be independent. To respect ourselves and others.

In Key Stage 2

We want to develop critical thought. We want to become ambitious. To persevere.

The aims of our school for every child are as follows:-

To be respectful and value each other and ourselves. By doing this, others will respect us.

To be polite and honest. By doing this we will be trusted.

To work well with our teachers and be eager to learn. By this we will achieve our best. To behave well so that we are all safe and happy. By doing this we will become valuable members of the community. To be proud of our achievements, so that our teachers and families will be proud of us and our school.

If we do our best we can achieve anything and have a wonderful life

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

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance arrangements

Governing Body Committee structure:

Our committee structure allows us to focus our work on school and national priorities. Each team covers the working areas to help us meet national and Ofsted requirements. This has allowed us to use individual governor strengths and become more effective in our roles Full governing body – 12 governors

Curriculum and Standards team

Strategic Leadership team

Finance and Premises Committee

First/Pay review committee

Personnel

Appeals Committee

Pupil Discipline Committee

Head teacher’s PM governors.

Meetings:

Full governing body meeting every term.

1 to cover LA, government and current issues.

Team meetings are held every term.

A governor afternoon is held every term where all team meetings are held. Governors can attend any meeting as well as their nominated one to keep up to date with any school issues. Other governor visits can also be agreed during these meetings. There is also an opportunity for other school leaders to present and inform governors about school priorities.

For each team (committee) we have adopted local authority terms of reference to meet the needs of the school.

A code of conduct for governors is in place.

The school uses "Governor Hub which is available for governors to access governor documentation and training.

Some Governors have special responsibilities and are expected to visit the school, carry out discussions, look at work, visit classes and talk to children. This helps to improve their knowledge and understanding of their areas. It also allows them to see the impact of the strategic decisions made by governors. Governors complete reports which are presented at full governing body meetings.

Finance

Our finance committee meets termly or more if necessary. A recent initiative to ensure accurate and up to date reports are always available for governors is a 6 weekly meeting with the LA finance officer, the headteacher and a nominated governor. Spending is tracked, and any deficit is quickly identified.

The budget statement is agreed by the Finance committee in consultation with the HT.

The financial statement is considered and any discrepancies discussed and challenged.

The school business manager keeps governors informed about projects and spending at Governing body meetings and the finance and premises meeting.

Minutes from meetings are shared with all governors. Questions which challenge are highlighted.

Training for governors

Governors are encouraged to attend the LA training events to become better informed and more able to support and challenge the school.

Individual governors access training on a needs basis linked to their governor roles and responsibilities on each committee. New governors are encouraged to attend 'new Governor' training. Whole governing body training has been accessed this year on:

- Safer recruitment

The vice chair of governors arranges training for any governors who request it. We have continued to ensure a wide range of governor interests and abilities for greater impact on the school's strategic direction.

From Inspection report 2018:-

	<p><i>Governance is a major strength of the school. Governors complement their unfailing dedication with an impressive range of skills to both challenge and support school leaders</i></p>
<p>Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body (2020-21)</p>	<p>Outcomes for pupils:</p> <p>Issue 1 : Improve outcomes and increase the % working at greater depth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors introduced a monitoring plan for key governors. (Literacy and numeracy) • These govs have met with literacy and maths leads, completed learning walks, looked at books and observed in class. They have reported back to govs. on the impact of the new approaches to teaching literacy and maths. The literacy governor has also been involved in purchasing new books for the library. • Governors monitor attainment and progress of more able, PP and girls across KS2 and challenge underperformance every term when they are presented with school data and data analysis. Leaders have been challenged this year particularly regarding the writing data. Writing remains a key priority for the school although Evidence in books supports overall improvement, it is not reflected in outcomes because of the fundamental issue of spelling alongside poor use of vocabulary. <p>Teaching and learning: Issue 2 : Continue to challenge leaders to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that engages and motivates pupils to learn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three governors met with the curriculum lead to look at the long term plans and assessment procedures. The whole school curriculum is planned to stimulate and interest the pupils of Crook and develop independence and resilience. Governors will continue to monitor any changes next year as the school ensures it caters for the pupils of Crook Primary. <p>Leadership and management.</p> <p><i>Issue 3: Continue to challenge leaders to maintain a focus on attendance particularly of those persistent absentees.</i></p> <p>Governors monitor attendance every term. They are satisfied that the school has good systems in place to work with vulnerable families to try and improve attendance. They have accessed support from the LA and have followed through on any new initiatives and ideas.</p>
<p>Assessment of Impact</p>	<p>Impact on Outcomes for pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singapore maths is taught more consistently and is impacting on the quality of teaching and learning as more reasoning and problem solving are included in lessons. Books and data are supporting an increase in the % of pupils working at the expected level across the school. <p>Impact on the Quality of teaching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are kept well informed through the HT report about the quality of teaching from her monitoring programme. • Teaching is judged to be good overall and this is supported by the LA. • Teachers are accessing high quality CPD to increase their knowledge and understanding of all areas of the curriculum. <p>Impact on Leadership and Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum changes are now in place and a more engaging active approach is used to motivate and interest pupils. All subjects are tracked and the school has data showing the % of pupils at ARE at the end of the year in all subjects.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders report that these approaches are impacting on the behaviour, motivation and engagement of pupils in lessons. • Attendance is rigorously tracked and appropriate actions are taken to support vulnerable families. <p>Financial decisions: Governors have had to deal with a potential budget deficit which was managed well without the need for any redundancies. Governors approved a regular 6 weekly meeting with the finance officer to ensure that he is held to account and that figures are correct for govs to make informed decisions. The ongoing issue with the water leak had serious financial implications due to lack of diagnosis by the LA. It could have cost an additional £12000 but govs were proactive in ensuring that excess expenditure was returned to the school. The bill was written off.</p> <p>Govs approved the secondment of a member of staff to the pupil referral unit. 2 new governors have become part of the team and succession planning has been put in place for the retirement of the current Chair of Govs.</p>
<p>Future plans for the Governing Body</p>	<p>Governors have identified the following actions to improve their effectiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's priority is to further develop the whole curriculum in order to challenge and develop a first class curriculum which meets the needs of the pupils of Crook Primary. Governors will monitor this closely to ensure pupils access a mastery curriculum. • To continue to monitor and challenge attainment and progress in writing and particularly outcomes for girls. • Support a programme to improve mental health and well being of pupils through the Gem Project • Continue to attend training events to develop governors' expertise and knowledge and plan for at least one whole governing body training event across the year. • To monitor parent participation and accountability for their children's learning.
<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>