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Holly Spring Junior School

**Annual Statement of Governance 2017/18**

In line with the Government’s requirements for all governing bodies, the four core strategic functions of the Holly Spring Junior School Governing Body are:

* To support and challenge the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for children.
* To set the vision and strategic direction of the school.
* To hold the Headteacher to account for the school’s educational performance.
* To ensure financial resources are well spent.

**Governance Arrangements**

The Holly Spring Junior School Governing Body was reconstituted in Spring 2018 with 10 members consisting of:

* 2 elected Parent Governors
* The Headteacher
* 1 elected Staff Governor
* 1 Local Authority Governor
* 5 Co-opted Governors

Co-opted governors are appointed members of the body who have the skills and experience to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

The full Governing Body meets once a month to set the strategic direction of the school and, in addition, we have just added a Finance sub-committee to consider all aspects of financial matters, such as budget setting, long-term financial planning and the expenditure of capital monies. There is also a Pay and Performance committee, that sets and reviews the Headteacher objectives, also ensuring that the school’s pay policy is correctly applied. Further committees may be set up as required to consider, for example, partnership with the Infant School.

Please see Appendix 1 for a list of current governors and Appendix 2 for the membership of each committee.

**Attendance Record of Governors**

Governors have an excellent attendance record at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting in the 2017/18 academic year because it was not ‘quorate’ (the minimum number of governors required to make legal decisions).

Please see Appendix 3 for details of each governor’s attendance at meetings.

**The Work of the Governing Body and Committees**

The Governing Body is working with the school to achieve its goal of becoming at least a ‘good’ school at the next inspection. A major focus of the Governing Body in the past 12 months has been to hold the school to account for improved pupil outcomes. The SATs results for 2018 show improvement in all areas, including an increased in the combined outcomes (Reading, Writing and Maths) of 10%. Reading increased by 4%, compared to 2017, writing 5% and maths 9%. These positive results give great cause for optimism in the next 12 months, as the school and staff team, build on these improvements.

Probably the most exciting development over the past 12 months, is the closer working relationship with the infant school. With the retirement of Mrs Donkin, this has enabled governors to discuss the possibility of amalgamation with Infant school governors and the local authority. Governors of both schools can see benefits for the children and parents of Holly Spring and have initiated a consultation process to see if amalgamation has support across the community.

The recent changes in school leadership have made a positive impact on pupil outcomes, but more time is required to establish a strong, consistent and sustainable track record. The more support we have from the parental community, the more quickly improvements will be seen.

The end of the academic year saw the departure of two long-serving and well-respected governors, namely John Urban and Rhian Griffiths. Both left big shoes to fill but we are hopeful of finding replacement governors in the autumn term.

The finance committee was newly established in July to provide greater focus on school finances. By delegating financial oversight to the sub-committee, the main governing body can remain strategic; with a singular focus on school improvement.

Every year, the school must produce a report called the School Financial Value Standard (SFVS) to ensure that all financial procedures and controls have been adhered to. The governing body reviewed the report and no significant issues were found.

The minutes of all Governing Body and committee meetings are public records. You are, of course, free to ask at the office if you wish to see the record of any of our meetings.

**Future Plans**

The year ahead should be a busy one. We will continue to focus on improved pupil outcomes and becoming a ‘good’ school. There is a strong likelihood that the school will be inspected in the autumn term. The longer we get before an inspection, the more improvement we will be able to evidence.

In parallel with school improvement, we will review and respond to the consultation process for amalgamation. Regardless of the final decisions, we will continue to improve the working partnership with the infant school through a joint working party.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a very successful 2018/19 academic year.

Mark A’Bear, Chair of Governors – July 2018

**Appendix 1 – The Governing Body 2017/18**

Mark A’Bear, Chair of Governors (LA governor)

John Urban, Vice-Chair (Co-opted governor)

James Lacey (Headteacher)

Rhian Griffiths (Co-opted governor)

Andy Medlicott (Co-opted governor)

Katy Cracknell (Parent governor)

Marcus Glazebrook (Parent governor)

Helen Durbin (Co-opted governor)

Nathan Wyles (Staff governor)

Vacancy (Co-opted governor)

Helen Hawkins (Clerk)

Francesca Tigano (Parent governor) – September 2017 to January 2018

Trisha Donkin (Headteacher) – September 2017 to March 2018

Carolyn Smith (Staff Governor) – September 2017 to May 2018

**Appendix 2 – Committee Membership 2017/18**

**Finance: Pay and Performance:**

Liz Baker (School Business Manager) Mark A’Bear, Chair

Andy Medlicott John Urban

Marcus Glazebrook Rhian Griffiths

Mark A’Bear

**Appendix 3 – Attendance at Meetings**

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| **Governor** | **Full Governing Body** | **Finance** | **Pay & Performance** |
| Mark A’Bear | 10/10 | 1/1 | 3/3 |
| John Urban | 8/10 | N/A | 2/3 |
| Rhian Griffiths | 10/10 | N/A | 2/3 |
| Andy Medlicott | 9/10 | 0/1 | N/A |
| Marcus Glazebrook | 9/10 | 1/1 | N/A |
| Katy Cracknell | 7/9 | N/A | N/A |
| Helen Durbin | 7/8 | N/A | N/A |
| James Lacey | 4/4 | N/A | N/A |
| Nathan Wyles | 2/2 | N/A | N/A |
| Francesca Tigano | 3/4 | N/A | N/A |
| Trisha Donkin | 6/6 | N/A | N/A |
| Carolyn Smith | 8/8 | N/A | N/A |