

# **Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Cartmel CE School.**

**September 2019**

**Welcome to the Governors of Cartmel CE School.**

**As we begin another academic year we can look forward with enthusiasm to developing the work of the school in 2019-20 and looking backwards to the many achievements of the children both academically and personally in 2018-2019.**

**A lot of hard work has been put in by all the staff this past academic year to maintain the smooth running of classes and with this, the children continue to make improvements in their learning, engagement and enjoyment of the varied curriculum opportunities.**

**The school works very closely with the local cluster schools in sporting activities and the creative arts, as well as with the local community through links with Cartmel Priory and village societies and businesses.**

**Involvement in 'Artsmark' is continuing to provide exciting opportunities for all age groups to engage with crafts people, learn new skills and have visits from people in businesses to show them how 'anything is possible' in their futures with resilience and determination. Our links with Uganda and Greenland offer diversity to the curriculum; important in a changing world.**

**We would like to thank the Friends who work diligently to support our school by raising income that is vital for our school in times of difficult financial constraints and wish them success in developing the 'Heritage' booklet which is at the planning stage. We look forward to other fund-raising opportunities throughout the year.**

**As widely publicised, schools around the country continue to be under pressure as funding continues to be reduced and Cartmel CE school is no exception. The budget for this year has recently been set and we have worked hard to maintain our financial position and are committed to ensuring funding is used in the most resourceful and efficient ways possible.**

## **The Governors.**

**Staff Governors** - Headteacher, Rachel Battersby  
Ian Dunstan.

**Foundation Governors** – Rev'd Nick Devenish,  
Dorothy Milner

**Local Authority-** Sue Dean

**Parent Governors-** Matt Bennett,  
Tom Holman

**Co-Opted-** Susan Crabtree,  
Claire Unsworth

**Associate member of Governing Body** - Mary Iveson,

Clerk to the Governors- Gemma Brown.

### Mission Statement and Cartmel CE School Vision

‘Our Mission Statement was compiled by children, staff, parents and Governors, who worked together forming our vision;

**“Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow”**

**We will do our best, be happy and honest, show respect and be friendly.**

***‘Teach children how they should live and they will remember it all their life.’***

Proverbs 22:6

At Cartmel CE School we create a happy, caring environment based on Christian Values where we value every child and encourage them to strive for their highest standards of achievement. We ensure that our young people go into the world as confident, independent, responsible citizens with a love for learning.

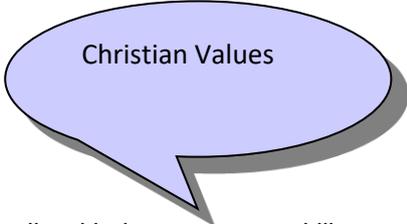
**Have fun together, learn together, pray together, succeed together, work together.**

**The 5 Cs – Five key principles emerged which will guide us to achieving success.**



Childrens'  
development and  
success

**Children’s development and success** – Discover the unique gifts and talents of each child in our care, providing rich opportunities for growth and development academically, vocationally, socially and spiritually.



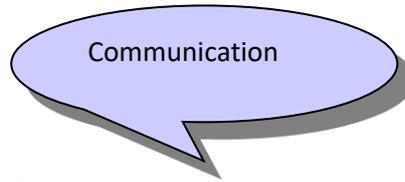
Christian Values

**Christian Values** – Equip our pupils with the necessary skills to go out into the wider community as confident, independent and responsible young people, with a lifelong love for learning, built through the common language of Christian Values.



Community

**Community** – Empower staff to develop themselves and their areas of responsibility, working together as partners in the school community. Foster and maintain strong links with Cartmel Priory Church, Cartmel Priory Secondary School and the wider community.



**Communication** - Involve parents fully in their child's education and encourage them to be active members of the school community. Work together with staff and Governors as a team, fostering an environment of both support and challenge.



**Champion for Creativity and Innovation** – Develop and maintain a stimulating and varied curriculum, enabling active exploration, awe and wonder in a range of subjects and learning experiences.

## **Our Role As Governors of Cartmel CE School.**

**As a Church school we fully endorse our school mission statement and always have the aims and objectives in mind when making decisions.**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Cartmel CE School Governing Body are;

### **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.**

- Setting the vision, values and objectives for the school
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities over time
- Meeting statutory duties

### **Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.**

- Performance managing the Headteacher
- Engaging with the stakeholders
- Contributing to self evaluation and monitoring progress

### **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

- Setting the budget
- Monitoring spending against the budget
- Ensuring value for money is obtained
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed

As Governors of the school we have an interest in education and always want the best for your children. We help to provide the best education, experiences, welfare and confidence to equip them with life skills for the future.

Responsibility is held by the whole governing body and not by individuals. They give of their own time as volunteers and attend training courses to increase their understanding of the roles. All governors are appointed either by the **Local Authority, the Diocese as Foundation governors, by the parent body, may be Co-opted or attend as an Associate member of the governing body** and so represent a range of people.

We work co-operatively with the headteacher and staff in the writing and monitoring of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) which sets priorities for the forthcoming year. The current SIP is based on the outcomes from data, school self evaluation and Ofsted and SIAMS (School Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) priorities.

We help set the school's aims and values and are responsible for staff appointments, including a Headteacher. Many of our responsibilities carry a statutory requirement. This means we are obliged by law to do things such as agree the annual budget, ensuring sound financial management, monitor the spending of the Sports Premium and Pupil Premium as well as ensuring school policies are in place, reviewed and updated. We also monitor the implementation of the curriculum and school results, so that all the children can achieve the highest standards for each individual.

Some of us are responsible for monitoring specific areas of the Curriculum, like English, Maths, PE and Humanities. We also monitor Pupil Progress, the Sports Premium spending, Pupil Attendance and all aspects of Health and Safety. As a Church school, Worship and Religious Education are part of the review and evaluation. Most of all, we are there to ensure that our school continues to help our children be the best they can be.

The Health and Safety and Well-being of all staff members and children are paramount to our vision to foster a happy and healthy environment where all feel safe.

Cartmel CE School Governors attend at least three Full Governing Body meetings a year and have two Committees-**Teaching and Learning, and Resources**. Each of these meet once a term.

All of the governors serve on at least one committee and the chair is elected from the members of that committee. All business interest, attendance and details of how people are appointed are on the school website. A Clerk to the Governors is in attendance at all meetings to take minutes of the proceedings. *Approved minutes of the FGB are available on request from the Clerk to Governors.*

Agendas are designed and agreed in partnership with the Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Clerk with the expectation that the key focus will be the dominant area for discussion and decision making.

### **Safeguarding:**

Governors consider safe-guarding and child protection a high priority and take responsibility for ensuring that arrangements and procedures meet current statutory requirements. We evaluate and

review the annual safeguarding audit, policy and procedures as a governing body. A designated governor meets with the head teacher once a term.

#### **Governor visits:**

Governors visit the school as part of their monitoring of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and through an agreed focus, address identified issues. These visits are agreed as part of a yearly timetable and are a valuable opportunity for governors to work closely with staff members and children. In addition, subject governors both monitor and review activities undertaken by subject/phase leaders who follow an agreed code of practice.

The Chair of Governors meets at least half termly with the headteacher, and is to undertake meetings with all governors as part of a self evaluation process and future development of their roles.

#### **The work we have done on our committees and in the full governing body meetings.**

The development of a governor monitoring timetable has ensured that governors have an accurate picture about the performance of the school and can support and drive forward school improvement as well as evaluate both current school policies and practice. Under the New Ofsted Inspection Framework (2019) we raise questions and challenge over the school's 'Intent, Implementation and Impact' with regard to the curriculum being delivered.

We are involved in consultation for the current School Improvement and will monitor all aspects of this development. We keep under review the policies, plans and procedures within which the school operates. The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of policy, day to day management of the school and the operation of the curriculum.

Governors have supported the school with attendance at phonics training, the introduction of Tapestry to Reception parents, Worship and Celebration assemblies, Memory lunches, sports activities within the local cluster, and the development of improvements to the fabric of the school under the leadership of the headteacher. We have supported the schools work to develop Diversity; governors visited school and heard the 'pupil voice' for a range of activities and events.

The fabric of the building is always under review for paintwork and re-decoration, with Health and Safety issues paramount at all times. The 'Well-being' of everyone within the school community is always part of our remit and we encourage an openness of any concerns, enabling us to support where appropriate.

#### **Data analysis:**

Governors have received external training alongside governing body meetings which facilitate discussion and raise awareness and governor knowledge on

- Raise-Online, School /Governor Data Dashboard , Fischer Family Trust Data. Analysing School Performance (ASP)

- ❖ Data is made available through verbal and written presentations followed by question and answer sessions with the headteacher both at full governing body meetings and at committee.
- ❖ Through this, the governors are able to benchmark their data against similar schools, the local authority and schools nationally to ensure the standards and expectations are high.
- ❖ Particular scrutiny is placed on pupil progress across the classes, including awareness of vulnerable groups, and on the effectiveness of Pupil Premium.

#### **Policies:**

Governors review all relevant policies on a programmed basis to ensure that all guidance is up to date. Attention is paid to ensure that the school complies with the Department of Education statutory policy list and the Local authority policies.

#### **Governor Training:**

The governors in the 2018/2019 school year have attended a range of training to support their work through sessions in the Cartmel Peninsula and County Training and will continue this over the year:

- General Data Protection Regulation training to provide governors with the information and confidence to meet the expectations on schools and governors with the changes which came into force on 25th May 2018.
- Understanding Data—helping governors to feel confident in interrogating data for schools.
- Well Being
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Curious Minds- Measuring Impact
- Headteacher Appraisal training for governors
- Keeping Senior Management to Account
- The Role of Governors in School Improvement
- Ofsted preparation

#### **Staff Recruitment:**

- Governors work hard to recruit quality teachers and leaders. A selection of governors are trained in 'Safer Recruitment.' Governors are involved in recruitment and selection of all teaching staff and use the appointment process to ensure that high quality staff, who share the schools ethos, mission statement and values are appointed.

#### **Financial Management:**

- The governors work with the headteacher with professional input from Capita to achieve the 'Schools Financial Value Standard and Assurance' (SFVS) on an annual basis.
- The impact of the governors' role in the school ensures that the budget is well managed and improvements are effective and continuous.
- External audits confirm that finances are well managed.
- The spending of the "Pupil Premium Funding" and the "Government Sports Funding for Schools" are evaluated, with information displayed on the school website.

### **Our focus for 2019-2020:**

- Ensure the Governing Body continue to have an effective skills set, based on a Skills Audit.
- Formulate our Governor Action Plan alongside the success criteria within the School Improvement Plan (SIP) , to ensure continuing development towards our goals to raise our profile as a governing body, ensure meetings are purposeful, succinct and address the needs and requirements for school improvement.
- Through monitoring, ensure sustained improvement in pupil progress and attainment across all ability groups including vulnerable groups.
- Ensure the implementation of the curriculum is based upon breadth and balance, with opportunities for creativity, excitement and fun, to ensure our children grow in confidence for their future.
- Review all policies and procedures to support improvement in line with newly implemented rolling programme.
- Support the head teacher in continuing the development for the role of Middle Leaders within the school in their subject leadership.
- Ensure our premises are well maintained and all space maximised; looking specifically at office space, a covered walkway and possible extension of learning areas.
- Monitor the use of Sports Premium finance and the impact of Pupil Premium.
- Ensure the Headteacher Appraisal process is conducted professionally.
- Have regard to the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Review Body (STRB)

### **Supporting Cartmel CE School.**

A copy of the 'Friends' of Cartmel CE School report can be located on the latest minutes. Support from this group of supporters has enabled many events to happen for the enrichment and enjoyment of the school community but they would also welcome others who could offer support in any way.

Thank you for your continued support to ensure our school community is thriving, generates a love of learning through our values and ethos and ensures that all your children reach their potential.