

**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE GOVERNING BODY OF
EAST COWTON AND KIRKBY FLEETHAM CHURCH OF
ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOLS
DALES ACADEMIES TRUST**



JULY 2018

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In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies the three core strategic functions of the Governing Body are:

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

Governance Arrangements

On the 1st November 2017 both schools became part of the Dales Academy Trust. The legal federation which previously existed was dissolved as part of the academisation process. However, the close co-operation of the schools and the joint Governing Body has not changed.

The local governing body of both schools comprises:

The Headteacher: Helen Dudman

Elected Parent Governor: Collette Faulks (Chair)

Appointed Parent Governor: Graeme Thompson (Vice Chair)

Elected Staff Governor: Marie Mann

Archdeacon Appointed Governors: Stephen Cooke and Rachel Savage

Co-Opted Governors: Lynn Wild, Susan Shields, Mike Ingram (resigned in February 2018), Chris Gent, Polly Sinclair; Mike Dillon (joined in June 2018).

The governing body is provided with clerking services by Val Brown who ensures that we are kept up-to-date with regulations and training opportunities.

During the course of this academic year the Governing Body has moved to a committee structure. Therefore, there have been:

- 7 full governing body meetings
- 1 meeting of the Resources Committee
- 1 meeting of the Curriculum Committee
- 1 meeting involving all governors, staff members and representatives from the Friends of both schools

Parents' forum have taken place at both schools and governors attended parents' evenings.

Each governor has a particular link role and is responsible for assisting the school with its own analysis of strengths and weaknesses through talking to staff and children, visiting the school and challenging and supporting the Headteacher as required.

Attendance record of governors

The clerk to the governors keeps a record of governors' attendance at meetings. Details of attendance can be found on page 5.

Meetings have to be quorate to ensure that decisions can be made.

The Work We Have Done In Our Governing Body

This has been a year of finding our way within the Academy structure. It has involved a lot of 'behind the scenes work' and the governing body would like to recognise the work, in particular, of the administrative team and Headteacher who have shouldered the bulk of the responsibility. It has been a real pleasure to see how the benefits are starting to appear for the teaching staff whilst, at the same time, there has been no disruption to the children themselves.

The number of children at Kirkby Fleetham school has remained steady and the end of year results in early years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have been encouraging. The children in East Cowton have done similarly well in their studies although the number of children joining the school in reception remains low and the governing body continue to support school staff in exploring ways to increase take up of places at the lower end of the school.

The priority of governors is to ensure that everything which is done within the school environment benefits the children. To that end there are regular visits to meet with children and staff so that they can show us all the wonderful work the children are doing. It is part of the role of the governing body to ensure that the children make the progress expected of them and are provided with support when needed to enable them to make the best of their time at school so monitoring the schools' data is a key part of meetings.

The strengths of the staff have been recognised this year with Mrs Mann becoming a mathematics 'mastery specialist' through the National College of Excellence in

Teaching Mathematics and Mrs Hume being appointed a 'Peer Support Teacher' for the Swaledale Alliance and setting up a creative teaching group to explore excellence in teaching. These new challenges for them can only benefit the children in both schools.

School finances, as always, remain tight and the Governing Body is rigorous in ensuring that expenditure is for the children first and foremost. The sharing of resources across the schools continues to benefit the children. There has been a focus on training staff to lead 'forest school' which enables the children to get out and about and extend their learning into their local environment.

Many of the schools policies are now provided by the Dales Academy Trust and are scrutinised by the governing body. All of the policies, as well as the minutes of the Governing Body meetings, are available on the school web site.

Strategic Planning for the Future

The future shape of the Academy Trust is very much at the forefront of everyone's minds after this initial year. The supporting structures are in place and the Headteachers of all the schools involved are busy planning how they can help each other to improve the experiences for all of our children. They are starting with a focus on standards and Mrs Dudman is now part of the Swaledale Alliance Strategic Board and, within the Academy, has taken responsibility for the Dales Trust Young Directors (ensuring the children themselves are directly involved in shaping the Academy) as well as Pupil Premium.

The Governing Body has spent this year looking at an action plan for its own improvement so that it can be sure that it is as strong as it can be to support the school and provide challenge where necessary to the Headteacher. As part of that we have introduced an end of year meeting including all staff and representatives of the Friends Committees of both schools. This inaugural meeting was a lovely way to bring everyone who is so involved in helping to make the schools an exciting place for the children together to plan how the year ahead will look and what we want to achieve. We hope to make this an annual event.

How to contact your Governing Body

Full details of the governing body are available on the school website, on the 'Governors' page. Details of how to contact us can also be found on the website - but any of us can be contacted through the school.

School Governors' Attendance Record 2017-18(%)

4 Governors have 100% attendance record.

3 Governors have 88% attendance record (with apologies sent with reasons for the meeting missed)

1 Governor has 75% attendance record (with apologies sent with reasons for the meeting missed)

1 Governor has 63% attendance record (with apologies sent with reasons for the meeting missed)

2 Governors have a 50% attendance record (with apologies sent and reasons given for the meetings missed)