

George Spicer Primary School

Governors' annual report to Parents/Carers 2024-2025

The governing body at George Spicer Primary School is made up of a group of people who have a variety of skills and experience. We work effectively as a team to support our school and community, to communicate the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school. As governors, we have a strategic role; we are not involved in the day to day running of the school.

The Governing body saw many changes this year as Anne Del Greco stepped down after 8 years as governor and Co -Chair for the last two years. We recruited Gill Hatvani, who has education/Early Years experience as Local Authority governor. An election resulted in 2 new parent governors Henna Kashmiri and Gillian Curtis. Staff Governor Miss Ring also stepped down in July, and 2 new staff governors joined the board: Ms McNamara and Ms. McManus. Thanks to Ms Del Greco and Ms Ring for all your work and commitment and welcome to our new governors who bring a wide range of differing skills and experience to the board. We still have a vacancy for a Co-opted governor which we hope to fill this year.

We had 10 meetings last year, 4 Full Governing Body meetings and 3 each for the two committees.

The Curriculum and Achievement committee received presentations from staff teams on the new writing and humanities schemes, Literacy Tree and Opening Worlds. Governors visited classes during Governors' visit weeks to see how staff and children were adapting to these and saw some wonderful, thoughtful lessons which children really enjoyed. The focus on oracy, vocabulary and reasoning skills was very evident as was the hard work from the teaching and support staff who really aim to make these lessons interesting and accessible for the children. Thanks to all the staff who welcomed us into their classrooms and gave us their thoughts and feedback on the new initiatives. Governors also examined a range of data which records the children's progress and attainment in reading, writing and maths in detail, as well as attendance. This was benchmarked against data nationally and at local level.

During Resources committee meetings, Governors carefully scrutinised income and expenditure, always trying to ensure that the school receives the maximum benefit from a very tight budget in all aspects of school life. Sometimes difficult decisions were made as demands are increasing, costs are rising, and we experienced a reduction in finances.

All decisions were arrived at with the best interests of the children and staff in mind.

Full governing body meetings brought the work of the 2 committees together, so that all governors had a full overview of decisions made. A range of policies were reviewed and updated throughout the year, and we discussed the feedback from children, staff and parents to gain a greater understanding of the concerns and issues from the whole community.

During the year ahead, we will continue to monitor the objectives in the School Improvement Plan, with particular emphasis on Maths, Special Educational needs and the re

design of the House System structure. The individual link governors will also visit staff responsible for Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs, Pupil Premium and Health and Safety, as these areas are of particular importance in our strategic roles. We will also continue to monitor attendance and persistent absence and pupil and staff well-being.

Governors act as “critical friends” and our role asks us to both support and challenge the information and ideas presented to us at board meetings and to gain an overall picture of school life by visiting and speaking to children and staff about the things we learn when we meet.

Thank you to Mr Spong and the staff who meet with us to examine the work of the school and aim for continuous improvement and better experiences for the children.

Finally, thank you to all the staff and parents who work together to provide a safe, inspiring and happy environment for the children at George Spicer school.

Deborah Dykins Chair of Governing Body at George Spicer Primary School