

# High Street Primary Academy

## Governance Statement

Welcome to our Governors' section of the High Street Primary Academy website.

Here you will find information regarding the role of the governing body and how we support the school.

### Our Role

The Headteacher is responsible for the day to day management of the school. The Governing Body are a group of volunteers who support school staff by providing strategic oversight, support and challenge where required. We help to set the school vision, culture and values and we help to maintain high standards, ensuring that the curriculum is broad and balanced and that the school is ambitious for the learning and attainment of our pupils.

The Governing Body is presently comprised of the following members and a pen portrait of each can be seen elsewhere on this website:

Mrs B Lacey                      Chair with effect from 1.9.17

Mrs Eunice Halliday        Vice Chair

Ms Charlotte Bishop        Staff Representative

Mrs H Hunter                      Staff Representative

Mrs A Mc Gee

Ms L Nail                              Parent Representative

Ms M Precious

Mrs L Scott                              Headteacher

We have a parent governor vacancy currently which we will be aiming to fill during the Autumn Term.

### Annual Statement – September 2017

The last academic year saw the school take a major decision to become a member of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). The Department for Education (DFE) required us to make this move in order to begin to make a step change in the attainment levels of our children. Under their guidance we identified a shortlist of MATs and after a process of vetting each of the MATs we decided the best

match for us was REACH South Multi Academy Trust. The REACH mission statement “Aspiration Beyond Expectation” captures our vision for every child. We joined with effect from 1 December 2016.

Since then the leadership team, the office staff and Governors have had a lot of change to deal with, most notably with how finances and governance are to be run. Throughout this period our aim has been to minimise the impact of this workload on classroom staff and most importantly on the children. For our pupils the move to REACH has been seamless and the benefits for our staff are now emerging as they access a wide range of new training, implement new curriculum materials and take advantage of opportunities provided by close collaboration with other schools in the MAT. On the 4<sup>th</sup> September all staff attended the first ever REACH South staff conference at the Theatre Royal Plymouth.

As reported in the national media, schools are facing severe funding challenges. High Street Primary Academy is no exception. During this Autumn Term 2017 we will need to make a number of compulsory redundancies in order to balance our budget. We take no pleasure in this and we will work hard with colleagues from REACH Human Resources to ensure that staff are treated fairly and courteously.

The major focus for the 2017/18 academic year is to raise the attainment of our pupils. The Key Stage results for 2016 and 2017 were disappointing. As mentioned above, the school is implementing a range of new strategies which we hope will enable our children to better demonstrate their ability. As governors we will fulfil our obligations to monitor pupil progress.

We meet as a Governing Body on the third Monday of each month excepting December and Easter. A new Governor, Mandy Precious joined us in the Spring Term and on 31<sup>st</sup> August Mrs Annie McGee stood down as Chair of the Governing Body after three years as Chair. We are enormously grateful for the time and commitment she gave us. Happily Mrs McGee is remaining as a Governor and we will continue to benefit from her experience. Mrs Bronwen Lacey became Chair with effect from 1 September 2017. During the summer holiday 2016 we met to assess ourselves against the expectations that Ofsted would have and this has enabled us to identify our strengths and areas for further development. The outcomes of this meeting is also being used to refresh our Governor Action Plan and this will be put on to our website once it has been approved following our October meeting.

In addition to our meetings, each member of the Governing Body has a responsibility for an area of the school and will make planned visits to the school in this capacity.

Finally, an overarching aim for us as a Governing Body is to ensure that pupils at High Street Primary Academy are happy and safe, enjoy their learning and have access to the widest range of opportunities.

