

**Poplar Street Primary School Governing Body
Annual Governance Statement
Spring 2016**



<p>In accordance with the Government’s requirement for all governing boards, the 3 core strategic functions of the Poplar Street Primary School Governing Body are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction, including long term and succession planning; 2. Holding the head teacher 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. 	
<p>Governance arrangements</p>	<p>The Governing Board of Poplar Street Primary School is now made up of: 2 Parent governors, the Head teacher, 1 Local Authority governor, 1 Staff governor and 7 Co-opted governors. The full Governing Board meets at least once each term and also has a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. Poplar Street has a Finance & Personnel Committee and two committees linked to the areas inspected by Ofsted. Other committees meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters. Clerking services are now provided through <i>One Education</i>.</p>
<p>Governors attendance and training</p>	<p>Governors have a good attendance record at meetings and no full governing board meeting has been cancelled because it was not quorate (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).</p> <p>Governors have attended a variety of training courses in order to keep abreast of new initiatives. Where appropriate, reports are made to the full governing body or to a committee and course notes circulated. New governors are given the opportunity to attend an induction course.</p> <p>A termly briefing for Chairs and Vice Chairs is held by the Local Authority and Poplar Street is always represented. The Governing Board has researched the process of <i>academisation</i> and an identified governor group is now tackling this issue.</p>
<p>The work done on committees and at the Governing Body</p>	<p>The Governing Body has had another busy year, most importantly focusing on whole school improvement and responding to the Ofsted inspection of July 2016. Poplar Street was described as a good school. Ofsted reported: <i>“Governors have taken much greater responsibility for gathering information about the school’s performance. They visit the school frequently, check work in pupils’ books and ask insightful questions of senior leaders when given reports and performance data. They also engage well with parents. Governors have ensured that the school’s finances are well managed, keeping a close eye on how physical education and sports funding, and the pupil premium (additional funding that the school is given for pupils who are eligible for free school meals and pupils who are in the care of the local authority) are used.”</i></p>

	<p>They have a good understanding of achievement data, including the achievement of those pupils who are eligible for the pupil premium funding. Their detailed analysis means they know how well the school performs compared to other schools nationally. Key governors are linked to age-phases through partnerships with senior staff and visits are made to school on a regular basis. The committee structure is kept under review in light of changes to the Ofsted framework. Terms of reference for the committees are reviewed regularly. Governors have spent time considering the introduction of the new primary curriculum and associated assessment arrangements. Detailed discussions have taken place on key data giving the results of pupil achievement and progress in order to be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. Particular consideration has been given to the needs of “vulnerable groups” of children with a focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent and what impact this has on children’s outcomes. The Governing Board is responsible for the renewal of policies & procedures. These have been updated in accordance with new legislation. They can be seen on the school website.</p>
<p>Future plans of the Governing Body</p>	<p>The Governing Board will continue to monitor progress in implementing the key recommendations from the Ofsted inspection: improving the quality of teaching further and; improving pupils’ attainment in writing throughout the school. The Governing Board will continue to review the terms of reference for all Committees to ensure effective monitoring of all aspects of school provision with the aim of being rated as an outstanding school. The issue of <i>academisation</i> will be kept under review.</p>
<p>How to contact the Governing Body</p>	<p>Suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents are always welcome - please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs C McBride, via the school office. The full list of governors and is available on the Governing Body page of the school website.</p>