

Governors Statement School year 2024/25

The governing board has the following core strategic functions:

- Establishing the strategic direction.
- Ensuring accountability
- Ensuring financial probity

The governing board contributed to the school development plan by:

- Examining, questioning and challenging all available data through committee and full governor meetings.
- Completing head teacher's appraisal.
- Meeting with Lancashire school's advisor

School Year 2024/25 has been a year of consolidation with Mrs Robinson, Head Teacher, and Mrs Watson, Deputy Head Teacher, establishing a robust set of actions and priorities for the school, its children, its staff and the building. The school building has been significantly renewed ensuring it is fit for purpose for years to come. The changes will benefit the children and staff in equal measure, improving the working environment necessary for not only current challenges but those we will face in the future. Our thanks to all involved in undertaking and completing this major project, much of it ongoing during school hours without unduly affecting the school's daily operation.

The school team will see changes in school year 2025/26 with the resignations of Mrs Stock and Mr Jackson, both long term members of the team who have played significant and important roles in developing the school, its children and the overall positive culture so necessary for a successful institution. Mrs Seed, after 25 years of loyal and committed service is to take early retirement from her position as Business Manager. Mrs Seed has been front and centre of Newton Bluecoat School and the community and leaves a strong legacy of achievements on which the school will continue to build. Our thanks and best wishes to Mrs Stock, Mr Jackson and Mrs Seed. They will be very much missed.

The Board of Governors agreed the school improvement plan for 2024/25 with key priorities:

- To further develop staff expertise as curriculum leaders when monitoring and evaluating the impact of changes to the curriculum.
- To further develop ongoing recovery provision to ensure protracted gaps in learning for children disadvantaged by the disruption to their education and personal development are addressed.
- To ensure a holistic approach to the personal development and well-being of our children and staff.
- To ensure the distinctiveness and effectiveness of Newton Bluecoat as a Church of England school.

The governing board monitored progress towards achieving the improvement plan objectives through termly meetings of the Curriculum and Welfare Committee, the Resources Committee, and the Standards and Effectiveness Committee. The full governing board also met termly to discuss, review and agree necessary actions to achieve the school improvement plan.

Governors have been involved in following the progress of the Quality of early years provision, the Quality of Education, the Quality of personal development, the Quality of behaviour and attitudes and the Quality of leadership and management. The governors have worked with the school team in embracing academic excellence with a wider framework of spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development that enables all to shine from the inside out. The school senior team have established a clear strategy to school year 2026/27 agreed by the governing board.

The Governors continue to monitor and challenge the senior team on ensuring Safeguarding and Pastoral care of both children and adults is paramount. Much positive work and outcomes can be evidenced, and the Governors are grateful to those staff involved for their commitment and diligence

- To provide education to our children in the safest possible environment.
- Ensuring that pupils cover the required curriculum in all subjects to a high standard.
- Ensuring all teachers have high expectations of all the children and themselves.
- To develop provision within the early year's classrooms to ensure that all children benefit from high quality learning.
- Update disciplinary policy and improve recording system for both discipline and safeguarding.
- Develop provision for outdoors with particular emphasis on the newly built reception outdoor educational area.
- Focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is managed and both record and measure how successfully the fund is being utilised. To support senior team in this most important area.
- Ensure the Sports funding is used appropriately. To support the team in their continued development of these activities to which the school is totally committed.
- Measuring and responding to any attendance issues, bullying issues, racist issues.
- Providing prompt response to parents concerns and any grievances through diligent investigation, communication and any necessary actions.
- To give the children every opportunity to experience new and different learning experiences through a broader curriculum and to experience learning in a Christian environment.
- To recognise the work of our out of hours teams in the After- school club, our caretaker, our school canteen provision and our administration team.

The governing board;

- Set and agreed the budget
- Monitored spending against the budget
- Ensured value for money was obtained
- Ensured any risks to the school were managed e.g., Nursery budget.

The governors are aware they will require a comprehensive update from the Head Teacher on the outcomes of the SAT's tests and data and what the educational priorities are as a result. We anticipate the school improvement plan will cover all aspects of this programme.

The fabric and maintenance of the school buildings will remain a priority although major works are not anticipated following the recent completion of the renewal project

The Governors are grateful to the Lancashire Education Authority and the Hornby Trust for their continued and invaluable support. We are indebted to the entire school community for their efforts, support and help throughout the school year.

The Governing Board is optimistic the school is on solid foundations and has a strong and forward- looking leadership team. We send our very best wishes and every success in the future to our departing three members of staff. Governors will support as necessary the Senior team in any necessary restructuring.

I would like to thank the members of the governing board my appreciation for their hard work and diligence during the school year and to welcome newly appointed governors to the team.

Many thanks.

Tim Walker

Chair of Governing Board.