

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of
Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery School 2016**

School Vision/Mission Statement

The Governing Body of Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

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, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery School currently comprises of fourteen governors: six member appointed governors (including the Chair and Vice- chair), the Head Teacher, two members of staff, four Parent Governors, and an associate member who is also a member of senior staff. There are currently no vacancies. The full Governing Body meets once a term and there are also sub-committees: Finance and Premises, Progress and Personal Development and Well-being committees, which also meet regularly. The first one is self- explanatory whilst the second looks at all aspects of the education, progress, attainment and finally the third is concerned with children’s all round development, well-being and personal growth. There are also sub-committees which meet as and when required i.e. Personnel, Head Teacher Performance Management, Pay Review and Appeals. As part of a multi-academy trust (Tudhoe Learning Trust) the TLT Board of Directors also meet each term. The Chair of Governors of each academy within the Trust is a Director and is therefore a Board member. The Executive Head and Directors are legally responsible for the results from all academies and overall financial running of the Trust.

Attendance record of the governors

Governors and directors have good attendance at meetings and school has never cancelled a full governing body meeting because it was not “quorate”.

The work that we have done on our Committees and in the Governing Body

There is a productive and strong working relationship between the governing body and the school staff. The head teacher and chair of governors meet regularly, as do other governors with school leaders. The level of challenge presented in meetings is appropriate in holding leaders to account for the performance of the school. Governors visit school and experience its work first hand. In the past year the Governing Body has continued to focus on school improvement particularly in relation to the upkeep of the site, having overseen an improvement in teaching, standards and actioned internal refurbishment in previous years. The Finance and Resources Committee has been actively involved in the strategic development of the school premises, and has made decisions about how the school should use the budget to enhance

	<p>the learning environment and the quality and upkeep of the buildings. Staffing is stable in school. In the past 2 years governors have been actively involved in the recruitment, retention and selection of staff. As a result appointments and deployment have been effective, with school having a clear staffing structure where staff perform well and are clear on their roles. Governors ensure safeguarding arrangements are met. The progress committee has met regularly and discussed pupil achievement, to ensure leaders are focused on, and are on track to ensure ambitious targets for all pupils are met. Governors have posed questions about outcomes and its link to spending for “vulnerable groups” of children. Particular focus has been made on how Pupil Premium money is being spent by the school and its impact on children’s outcomes.</p>
<p>Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body</p>	<p>School is making good progress with addressing issues of historic underperformance and all aspects of school’s work have improved significantly since academy conversion. School’s aim is now to achieve sustainable, long term improvement and the governing body feel that it is essential that recent improvements are built upon and maintained. Therefore staff retention and effective recruitment have been vital to the continued development of the school. Clear strategic planning is also important. At the start of each academic year, the Senior Leadership Team produce a School Development Plan, in consultation with specific members of staff, Governors and the Executive Head. This Plan lays out what requires doing to maintain the progress being made by the children and identifies where additional work needs to be done to keep all aspects of school’s work at a good or better level of performance. Each July the chair of governors meets with the headteacher and receives an initial update on results from KS2 exam results. Then in late October/early November the Progress committee meet to discuss school’s performance against national benchmarks, once National data is available. This forms the basis for what governors and SLT monitor and drives the focus the governing body’s work. Ensuring improvements in pupil outcomes are maintained is a vital aspect of the governing body’s work.</p> <p>Governors also pair with a member of staff who has a responsibility for certain area of the curriculum and they meet periodically to discuss and review the progress made across different areas. The Head Teacher also produces a report each term, which is presented at the full Governing Body meeting. This covers class structure and organisation, staff information and responsibilities and then headings which follow the latest Ofsted criteria. There are also sections on the Performance Management of staff, Pupil Premium, Sports Premium, if there are any looked after children, exclusions, and any incidents which require reporting. Governors are able to ask questions of the Head Teacher.</p>
<p>Assessment of Impact</p>	<p>There are a number of different sources where the impact of what the staff and governors are doing can be measured. School to school reviews take place on an annual basis and an independent Education Development Partner (EDP) comes into school, once a year, and gives an independent assessment of the achievements and attainment of the children. The Department for Education</p>

	<p>(DfE) publish data for both schools and parents: - Inspection Dashboard, School league tables (both can be seen on the website) and a more technical database called RAISEOnline which is only available to schools. Then there are the inspections carried out by OFSTED – these inspections provide a rigorous testing of the schools judgement as to how well the school is doing. Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery School was inspected by OFSTED in May 2014 and was found to be GOOD. This is all due to the hard work and professionalism of all the staff and governors. Members of the governing body were fully involved with OFSTED and met with the Inspectors, who commented that 'governors are knowledgeable and provide excellent support ad challenge'. The Executive Head is also involved in monitoring visits on a regular basis to validate the work of the school, including its governance.</p>
<p>Future plans for the Governing Body</p>	<p>Staff and Governors work tirelessly to improve the quality of education at Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery School. The governors and the SLT are resolute in their determination to improve school further. The governing body fully recognises the need to adopt and adapt to the continual changes being made to education but feel that it is essential for the school to adhere to its key principles of providing all children with the building blocks to be success later in life, namely good basic skills and a love of learning. The governing body is keen to build on the GOOD grading from OFSTED May 2014 and is determined to ensure the children continue to make good or outstanding progress in school. Future plans include holding the head teacher to account for improvements in teacher performance, increases in the % of children reaching the new national standard, improvements in attendance and a reduction in repeated exclusions.</p>
<p>Contact Details</p>	<p>The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school office.</p> <p>Details of the full Governing Body are on the school website.</p>