

# HUBY CHURCH of ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Annual Governance Statement

July 2024

**“Only my best will do, be kind to one another”**

**“Whatever you do work at it with all your heart” Colossians 3:v23**

### **Governance Arrangements**

This year there have been a few changes to our team.

We have welcomed David Bidnell as our new Foundation Governor who started with us in December 2023. David has been working with our school for some time and is the Minister for the Huby Methodist Church.

We have also welcomed Hannah Jackson who has 2 children who attend Huby and who I know has been a keen volunteer within our school.

Both have already made positive contributions in supporting our school as Governors and we are looking forward to working with them over the coming years.

We have also been very fortunate to welcome Emma Rushton as our new Clerk to the Governors. You will all know Emma as our Senior Administrative Officer within the school. She initially took up the role on a trial basis but has agreed to continue. She has been an absolute asset to our team. Thank you for keeping us organized and on track Emma.

I also wish to also take this opportunity to say thank you to the departing members of our team: Sue Whiting, Pete Lambeth and Heather Christmas. Each of you were a pleasure to work with and we are grateful for all the support you gave to Huby School.

The rest of our team remain unchanged, and I would like to applaud all your hard work and support during this last year, especially in this last term when we dealt with the recruitment of a new head teacher and Ofsted.

### **What have we been up to this year .....**

#### **‘Our Committees’**

The **Full Governing Body** has met 6 times this year. In each meeting we challenge and hold our Headteacher to account. We review data and policies and ask ‘the question’ that procedures are being followed and look for evidence of this during our school visits. Safeguarding is an essential part of being a member of the Huby school community and we ensure that all governors regularly update their training and knowledge in this area. We also check the well-being of all staff members

to ensure we have a strong and happy school. (All our FGB minutes are available on the school website)

The future and progress of Huby Herons and our Nursery are regularly reviewed at our meetings which have both proven to be an asset to our school whilst benefitting so many families in our school community.

Monitoring visits have been organized on a Rota basis during our '**School Improvement Committee**' chaired by Rachel Gilmore, to ensure each area is covered. This has been working well. Our committee has met every half term and has effectively been involved in arranging lesson and collective worship observations, attending school trips, learning walks and book scrutinies. Governors have also met with school subject leaders in specific curriculum areas. This enables us to continually assess the impact that our teaching and learning is having on our children.

### **Safeguarding and SEN**

Governors with special responsibilities in Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs take their roles very seriously. Meetings have taken place with the Headteacher and our School improvement partner from the L.A as part of an annual review in both these areas.

Rachel Comerford and Joanna Tunningley have regularly met with the lead SENCo and write reports from their visits which are shared at our FGB meetings ensuring that the needs of our children are met, and that progress is made. Our inclusivity at Huby school has been praised and to ensure that all parents feel valued 'Coffee mornings' for parents who have children with SEN have been arranged within school and have been successful. We hope to continue this next year.

Karen Cahill has reviewed Child Protection and Safeguarding with regular visits to the school. This is to ensure that all policies, procedures and documentation are reviewed and adhered to ensuring that we keep everyone in the school community safe. These visits have involved monitoring 'What safeguarding looks like in everyday school life?' and speaking with the children, staff and parents. Safeguarding questions are also asked by governors on monitoring visits. Reports of these are shared at the FGB meetings

### **Finance**

Our finance committee has met each half term and has carefully set and monitored the school budget to meet the needs of the school development plan. We have monitored the spending on pupil premium and sports funding which is available on our school website. There have been great benefits to our children in the activities we have been able to offer including French Club, music lessons, residentials, school visits, swimming lessons, inter sporting competitions and trips involving tennis and Yorkshire cricket. There still, however, continues to be financial challenges for small schools so as a committee we compare the income and expenditure of Huby school with other similar schools via school benchmarking data. To ensure the financial security of the school going forward we have drawn up a 3-year forecast which still shows us in a positive position whilst still supporting the educational needs of all our children.

### **OFSTED**

Four of our governors were involved in supporting the OFSTED inspection this year. We are very proud of the report and the hard work of our Head Teacher and all the teaching staff. Although this was not an official grading, **'we remain a GOOD school'**, the feedback from the OFSTED officers was positive and reflected each member of the school community. I would like to say thank you to all those parents who took the time to give feedback and who continually support Huby school. The school was once again praised for its strong Christian ethos and how pupils understand and demonstrate the school values showing 'exceptional behavior' which represents a real strength of the school.

### **A note from the Chair**

*"Well, it's that time of year again and what a rollercoaster of a ride it has been. We set off our school year in September on a journey to helping all children achieve academically, so that they may make progress, prosper and grow into happy individuals whilst keeping them safe in their education. And I feel as a school community we have achieved this as we have all had a part to play. I was sitting watching the end of term school play this week. As I looked to the stage the children made me laugh and cry at times as I knew for some this would be their last week at Huby school. I have seen all the children grow up in so many ways with their confidence and their fun-loving spirits. It really lifts you as a person when you see this and as parents you must all be so proud. But there has been a special group of people behind all of this in everyday school life, with a strong person at the helm, steering that ship to ensure that all your children can reach their full potential. To the teaching staff and admin team behind you at Huby school I applaud you all for your commitment to education and making a difference to children's educational journeys. You have worked tirelessly, and it is greatly appreciated by us all. This was reflected by the kind words given in the feedback after the Ofsted inspection. They got the school, they got how hard you all worked and what a difference you were making.*

*To our PTA who have worked so hard in supporting the school this year with all the events that have taken place to continue to raise funds for Huby school. Well done! You have all been brilliant and these events mean so much as they bring the whole school community and the village of Huby together. I know you must be tired so you can now have a rest for 6 weeks!*

*Now to someone who has really made a difference over the last 3 and a half years. What a journey you have had and what a difference you have made Jane Cunningham. You started during lockdown doing remote teaching and learning whilst getting to know your team, pupils and parents. But along the way you have been an inspirational leader, showing such passion for education and compassion for others. Your commitment has seen the implementation of a new curriculum, dedicated support for all SEN children, the set-up of Huby herons and the school Nursery. You have dealt with a flooded classroom! And taken us through a SIAMS and OFSTED inspection. Whilst doing all of this you have had such an impact on the staff, children, parents and the governors that have worked with you. We applaud you and congratulate you and wish you well in your next chapter. You will be brilliant.*

*Enjoy the summer everyone, make memories to last and treasure! "*

**Karen Cahill**