Governors Annual statement to Parents 2022

"Building for the future"

This is my first letter to you as Chair of Governors' since taking over the post last October from Andrew Popely. We had worked together during the recruitment process for a new Headteacher and then I supported him as Vice Chair of Governors. I have been a governor for 16 years, but I still learnt a lot from him and knew it was never going to be easy stepping into his shoes. I am now pleased, as the summer holidays approach, to share with you the work we have done and what we have accomplished as governors during this school year.

'Our Team'

The Full Governing board of Huby is made up of 11 members as follows:

Governor	Position	Committee/Panel	Responsibility
Karen Cahill	Chair (Co-Opted)	Finance Health & Safety	Early Years Foundation stage
Jane Cunningham	Headteacher	Finance School Improvement	
Kath Wood	Vice Chair (Co-opted)	Finance	Child protection/Safeguarding Inclusion (SEND) including pupil premium/sports funding
Rachel Comerford	Foundation	School Improvement	Lead on RE School Vision Staff Welfare
Sue Whiting	Foundation		
Joanna Tunningley	Parent		Inclusion (SEND)
Heather Christmas	Parent	School Improvement	
Rachel Gilmore	Co-opted	School Improvement	
Michael Hartley	Staff	Finance	
Alison Darnley	Local Authority	Finance	
Peter Lambeth	Associate Member	School Improvement Health & Safety	

(Sally Walters is our Clerk who assists with the planning of our meetings and takes the minutes which are published on our school website.)

We started the year with quite a few vacancies to fill, but I am extremely pleased and proud of the talented strong team that we now have in place and what we can deliver towards the future of this wonderful school. Our role is to support and challenge the school but to also monitor and evaluate its work as "critical friends".

Each member serves a 4-year term from date of appointment, so succession planning is always at the forefront of our minds and is key for running a successful team. We met 6 times during this school year with only 1 meeting being over Microsoft Teams. We also have additional Committees/Panels which individual members attend at regular intervals reporting back at the Full Governing Body (FGB) meetings and a panel in place that reviews the Headteacher's Performance Management. Throughout the year the governors have also reviewed the school's policies and governor training has been reviewed regularly throughout the year with a focus to ensure that all governors complete essential training in Safeguarding.

'Our Vision & Ethos'

The governing body, head teacher and school staff have a shared vision for the school

"Only my best will do, be kind to one another"

"Whatever you do work at it with all your heart" Colossians 3:v23

The governors are responsible for setting the vision and strategic direction of the school. Over this last term we have met to review and discuss a new strategic plan to run over the next 3 years. This is still being worked upon and we will share this with you during the autumn term 2022-23.

This year our strategic direction has been in line with the School Priorities:

"To drive school improvement through the implementation of a recovery approach to the curriculum"

"To develop the teaching of phonics and reading so all children can access an age-appropriate curriculum and make good progress in all areas"

"To raise attainment and standards in writing across the school"

"To continue to develop and shape the Christian ethos of the school and ensure that the school is well prepared for a Good SIAMS"

The progress of these have been monitored and reviewed at our FGB meetings throughout the year. We have had our Statutory Inspection of Anglian and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) report where we received a 'GOOD' inspection. To support work in the run up to this inspection the governors attended collective worship, monitored RE lessons and the curriculum, performed book scrutinies and did learning walks to ensure that the vision and ethos was clearly visible throughout all aspects of school life. Governors have attended training on spirituality, attended school visits to a synagogue and had meetings with the diocese on what would be required for a successful inspection. We are so proud of the school team for how hard they have worked including the pupils and you the parents who have supported us during this process.

‘School Improvement’

This school year the governors have celebrated being able to visit the school and meet face to face with the Headteacher staff and pupils for the first time since the pandemic began in March 2020.

The ‘School Improvement Committee’ have ensured that all aspects of the curriculum are reviewed. This has enabled the governors to organise monitoring visits, talk to pupils and raise our profile within the school. We have observed the use of the new phonics scheme ‘Little Wandle’ in lessons and observed reading and writing across the school. To support this, we have welcomed reviews on our progress from the Local Authority to help drive improvement forward in these areas and governors have supported the school throughout this process. A review has been held in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to ensure we could monitor the progress on how the new curriculum is being used. These measures have enabled us to check that we are achieving the school’s priorities.

For the first time in 2 years, the children have now all sat the National Curriculum tests and assessment. These results have now been received and we are pleased with the progress that the pupils have made.

‘Financial Performance’

Our finance committee set and monitor the school budget to ensure sound financial management and best value is maintained. I can confirm that the school remains in a healthy financial position. The governors continue to review the funding allocation of ‘Pupil Premium’, ‘Sports Funding’ and ‘Special Educational Needs Funding’ reviewing the impact of these spends on the children. To support the social and wellbeing of the pupils’ additional support staff were recruited during the spring term as we continuously review the staffing structure. The school have funded and introduced the use of the ‘Little Wandle’ Phonics scheme for our EYFS children and had upgrades of IT equipment in 2 classrooms. We are looking to invest in a new school website over the summer to improve communication levels for all teachers, pupils and parents which should be ready during the first term of 2022-23.

The school and governors are over the moon to be receiving a very generous donation from All Hallows Church which we hope to use next year.

Governors and staff of Huby school have had a busy, productive year and we are all proud of our achievements. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our team of governors for their hard work and to the staff of Huby school for their full support and co-operation. The school is led by an extremely dedicated Headteacher with a very hardworking, enthusiastic team of teaching staff. During this year, the school have still faced pressures from the pandemic but have dealt with this admirably. I also want to thank you as parents for your support and positive feedback during times when there has still been increased pressures on the school. The Parent Teachers Association (PTA) despite all obstacles have continued to work together and still provide funding which we are extremely grateful for. Finally, our wonderful pupils of Huby school, they truly are a beacon of light and have shown such dedication to learning and represented all the values that we stand for which has made us so proud. For those who will not be returning in the autumn term I wish you every success for the future and hope that Huby has provided you with a strong start in your next chapter of education. Pupils are always fondly remembered and never forgotten.

Have a fabulous summer and enjoy quality family time together.

Karen Cahill
Chair of Governors