

# HUBY CHURCH of ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Annual Governance Statement

July 2025

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

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

### *“Opening Reflections from the Chair of Governors “*

This academic year has been one of exciting change and fresh beginnings for the entire school community at Huby Church of England Primary School. At the heart of this has been the arrival of our new Headteacher, Mrs. Donna Sandbach, who joined us in September. Stepping into headship is never easy, but Donna has worked incredibly hard to settle into her new role and has shown great commitment to the school and its community. Whilst she is in the early stages of her headship we are confident that her dedication and thoughtful approach will lay strong foundations for the future.

Supporting Donna throughout this transition has been our dedicated and talented team of teaching and support staff. Their continued commitment to delivering high-quality education, while helping embed leadership changes, has been outstanding. On behalf of the Governing Body, I extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of staff for their hard work and unwavering dedication to the pupils of Huby.

We're delighted to see our nursery continuing to flourish, with healthy enrolment numbers projected for the year ahead. Huby Herons also remains an integral part of our school, providing vital wraparound care that supports many of our families and enriches the wider school community.

This spring, we celebrated the addition of a new garden room in our wildlife area. This multipurpose space has already become a fantastic asset, being used for music lessons, meetings, small group teaching, and as a calming space for children who benefit from a quiet environment to relax, refocus, or take a moment away from the classroom when needed.

We are incredibly grateful to our wonderful PTA and all the volunteers who give their time so generously. Thanks to their tireless efforts, we were thrilled to mark the completion and grand opening of our new swimming changing rooms this summer —a much-needed addition that has made a real and lasting difference to the daily experience and wellbeing of our pupils.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Huby School. It is the strength of our community that makes it such a special place to learn and grow.

## **Governance Arrangements**

This year brought a few changes to our Governing Body. We said a heartfelt thank you and farewell to Rachel Gilmore, who completed her four-year term after serving with great dedication—particularly in her work with the School Improvement Committee. We would also like to express our thanks to our departing governors: Joanna Tunningley, our Parent Governor, for her dedicated support in curriculum matters and her thoughtful contributions, particularly in championing families of children with SEND; Alison Darley, our Local Authority Governor, for her support on the Finance Committee; and David Bidnell, our Foundation Governor. Each of them has played an important role in supporting the school's journey, and their contributions have been greatly appreciated.

In their place, we are pleased to have welcomed Laura Wright as a Parent Governor and Stefan Wytwyckj as our new Local Authority Governor. Both have already made positive contributions and have shown great enthusiasm in their roles. We look forward to working with them as part of our committed team in the years ahead.

We are still hoping to appoint a Foundation Governor and are optimistic that this position will be filled in the autumn term of 2025/26. In addition, we'll be looking to welcome a new Co-opted Governor from our local community. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in supporting the school in this rewarding role, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office—we would love to hear from you.

Our Governing Body continues to work with dedication to support the school in many areas, including the curriculum and financial management. I would like to sincerely thank each of you for your commitment, time, and hard work over the past year—it is truly appreciated and makes a real difference to our school community.

### **'Our Governing Body'**

The Full Governing Body has met six times over the past year. As part of our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, we are currently reviewing the effectiveness of our meetings and plan to refine the format in the coming year to ensure they remain purposeful and impactful. At each meeting, we have taken an active and balanced role in both supporting and constructively challenging our new Headteacher. We carefully review key data, examine policies, and ask thoughtful questions to ensure that procedures are being followed effectively. Through our regular school visits, we seek to see these practices reflected in the day-to-day life of the school.

Safeguarding remains a top priority, and we ensure that all governors regularly update their training to remain fully informed and confident in this critical area. We also take seriously our responsibility to monitor and support staff wellbeing, recognising that a happy and supported team is essential to a strong and thriving school.

Throughout the past year, we have taken time to reflect on how the school communicates with parents and the wider community, recognising how vital it is to share information in a clear, timely, and accessible way. As part of this ongoing commitment, we're pleased to share that a new and improved school website will be launched in September. We hope it will

become a central place for news, updates, and useful resources—helping families and the wider community stay connected and engaged with all aspects of school life.

### **Safeguarding and SEN**

Governors with special responsibilities for Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs (SEND) take their roles with great care and commitment. Over the past year, they have held regular meetings with the Headteacher and our School Improvement Partner from the Local Authority as part of the annual review process in both areas.

Safeguarding remains a top priority and lies at the heart of everything we do to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children and staff. Governors with designated responsibility for safeguarding have carried out regular visits to school to monitor practice, review policies and procedures, and confirm that all safeguarding documentation is current and being implemented effectively. These visits have included gaining insight into how safeguarding is embedded in the daily life of the school, through meaningful conversations with pupils, staff, and parents. Safeguarding is also a key focus during all governor monitoring visits, with purposeful questions asked and findings reported back to the Full Governing Body to promote accountability, transparency, and ongoing improvement.

Rachel Comerford has played a key role in supporting our team of Teaching Assistants by providing regular training focused on effective strategies for working with children with SEND. This ongoing support helps to strengthen our inclusive ethos and ensures that every child is given the opportunity to make meaningful progress.

### **Finance**

The Finance and Resources Subcommittee of the Governing Body has continued to work diligently this year to ensure that the funding received from North Yorkshire is used wisely and effectively to meet the needs of our pupils. As part of this, class structures have been thoughtfully adjusted to avoid split year groups, and classroom support has been allocated wherever possible to enhance learning.

The addition of our nursery and out-of-school club has expanded the scope of our financial management, but these services have been well received and well used. We are grateful to parents for their continued support, which plays a key role in the success of these provisions.

Like any organisation, the school faces ongoing financial pressures, and the committee works hard to manage variable costs carefully seeking best value in areas such as maintenance contracts, utilities, and IT resources. Alongside this, the wider school team has actively pursued external funding opportunities, and we are proud that this has led to developments such as the new Garden Room, which further enriches the educational experience we offer.

## **School Improvement**

The School Improvement Committee (SIC) continues to play a vital role in supporting and challenging the school's ongoing development. Throughout the year, the committee has carried out focused monitoring visits aligned with the priorities set out in the School Development Plan. These visits have enabled governors to gain a deeper understanding of the curriculum, teaching practices, and pupil outcomes across the school. By engaging with staff, reviewing key documentation, and observing learning in action, governors are able to provide informed feedback and ensure that progress is being made toward key improvement targets. This collaborative approach helps to strengthen the school's strategic direction and ensures that all children continue to receive a high-quality, broad, and balanced education.

### ***"Final Reflections from the Chair"***

As we come to the end of another school year, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who plays a part in making Hubby Church of England Primary School such a special and supportive community. To our wonderful pupils—thank you for your hard work, enthusiasm, and resilience. It has been a joy to watch you learn, grow, and flourish throughout the year. We wish those moving on to secondary school every success and happiness in the next stage of their journey. To our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support—your partnership with the school is truly valued and plays a vital role in the success and wellbeing of our children.

A special thank you goes to our fantastic PTA for their tireless efforts behind the scenes, organising events and raising funds that benefit every child. We would especially like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Helen Barnes for her unwavering dedication, and incredible fundraising efforts as Chair of the PTA. As she moves on from the school, we are truly thankful for everything she has done to support and enrich the Hubby community—her impact will be felt for years to come.

To our Head Teacher and teaching and support staff, thank you once again for your unwavering commitment, professionalism, and care. Your efforts are at the heart of everything we do. We're sad to say goodbye to Matt Vincent, who has been a valued member of our team for six years. We have had the privilege of watching his growth from being an Early careers teacher (ECT) to flourish in becoming a confident and inspiring classroom teacher and we wish you every success as he embarks on the next chapter of his teaching journey—his knowledge, passion, and dedication will be greatly missed but never forgotten. And to Emma Thompson, who will be beginning her maternity leave on 1st September, we thank you for all your hard work this year and wish you a wonderful maternity leave filled with rest, happiness, and precious moments with your new arrival.

And finally, to my fellow governors—thank you for your time, energy, and dedication in helping guide and support the school through another successful year.

Wishing you all a restful summer and a positive start to the new school year ahead.

Warmest regards,

*K Cahill (Chair Of Governors)*