



Thomas Ashton School

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Thomas Ashton School

2015 - 2016

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Thomas Ashton School Governing Body are:

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

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Thomas Ashton School was re-constituted in 2014 and is now made up of 3 staff governors (including the Headteacher), 2 elected Parent Governors and 3 Community Governors. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school: on our Governing Body three of the Co-opted governors are staff members, two are parents, two are from the Local Authority and the remaining three are members of the local community, including a Deputy Headteacher at St. Andrews C of E Primary School in Hadfield.

The full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. At Thomas Ashton we have a Curriculum and Standards Committee, which focuses on teaching and learning, spiritual, moral, social and cultural; Finance and Personnel Committee and a Safeguarding Committee that focuses on behaviour and safety. We also have committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline and personnel matters.

See p3 for a list of Governors.



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Attendance record of governors	Attendance of Governor meeting has been good. See p4 for details of individual governors' attendance at meetings.
The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body	<p>The Governing Body has had a particularly busy year. Governors are also particularly concerned about safeguarding and we have a nominated governor for Safeguarding (Mr Clayton) who reports back at meetings about any safeguarding matters. The Curriculum & Standards Committee has spent time discussing developments in Literacy and Numeracy and how the school timetable reflects the priority the school curriculum places on these subjects. The challenging behaviours of our pupils present a significant barrier to their learning. Pupils who also have identified learning needs as well as behaviour needs, the 'personalising' of the curriculum enables each pupil to learn at their own pace and level.</p> <p>The Finance and Personnel Committee looks at how the school uses the budget, the significant cost of being in a BSF school and any further developments of the school premises and any financial implications. The governors have paid particular attention to the imminent change to the ICT managed service contract and the financial consequences this will have on the budget. Early in the summer term, the Finance and Personnel Committee approved the 2015/16 budget plan for the school.</p> <p>One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we have considered a number of key policies, including the Pay Policy, Behaviour and Physical Intervention Policy along with the Data Protection Policy. We also approved the E-Safety Policy and the committee recognised the issues facing the ICT contract which expires in Summer 2016.</p> <p>Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents – you can either find them on the Governors' page of our website or you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.</p> <p>The governing body held a training day on 30th September 2015.</p>



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Future plans for the governors	The Governing Body has no projects in the planning. The budget is forecast to go into a deficit 2016/2017. Whilst addressing this the governors also recognise the need to plan for future refreshing of equipment that is integral to the school day i.e. ICT, Minibus
How you can contact the governing body	We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr John Clayton, via the school office. You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; minutes of governing body meetings and more information about what we do, on the Governors' page of the school website.



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Thomas Ashton School Governing Body

Governor	Category	Term of office expiry date
Mrs P Atkinson	Staff	10/03/19
Mr John Clayton	Community	10/03/19
Mr Robin Elms	Staff - Headteacher	
Ms Denise Hayward	Authority	10/03/19
Mrs Dominique Kenneally	Parent	01/12/18
Mrs Kim McDonough	Staff	03/12/17
Mrs Janet Neild	Authority	10/03/19
Mrs Jacqui Ridgeley	Parent	27/06/16
Mrs Maureen Wallis	Community	10/03/19
Miss Mandy Wilkins	Community	10/03/19



Perfect Primary School Governors' Attendance Record for 2014-2015

Governor	Full Governing Body	Curriculum & Standards Committee	Finance & Personnel	Safeguarding Committee
Mrs P Atkinson	100%	N/A	100%	100%
Mr John Clayton	100%	0%	100%	66.6%
Mr Robin Elms	100%	100%	100%	100%
Ms Denise Hayward	100%	N/A	N/A	100%
Mrs Dominique Kenneally	100%	N/A	N/A	66.6%
Mrs Kim McDonough	100%	100%	N/A	N/A
Mrs Janet Neild	100%	N/A	100%	N/A
Mrs Jacqui Ridgeley	0%	0%	N/A	N/A
Mrs Maureen Wallis	66.6%	66.6%	N/A	N/A
Miss Mandy Wilkins	66.6%	100%	N/A	N/A