



Thomas Ashton School

Annual Best Practice Statement for the Governing Body of Thomas Ashton School

2016 - 2017

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 2 staff governors (including the Headteacher), 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 5 Co-opted 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, 2 staff members (including the headteacher); 1 parent; 1 Local Authority governor and 5 Co-opted governors including the school business manager and a Deputy Headteacher from St. Andrews C of E Primary School in Hadfield. We have a vacancy for one parent governor.

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



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	<p>personnel matters. See p4 for a list of Governors.</p>
<p>Attendance record of governors</p>	<p>Attendance at Governor meetings has been moderate. See p5 for details of individual governors' attendance at meetings.</p>
<p>The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body</p>	<p>The Governing Body has had a moderate year. The Governing Body has a nominated governor for Safeguarding (Mr Clayton) who reports back at meetings about any safeguarding matters.</p> <p>Mike Doyle provided an update to his presentation on attainment and data from last year. The areas discussed reflected the current OFSTED SDP and SEF priorities.</p> <p>Mrs Wilkins visited school and met with Emma Stewart to discuss 'life without levels' and wrote a report. The report discussed how learning objectives are organised into a series of sequential steps that can be used to evidence progress.</p> <p>Classroom Monitor has been purchased; this has benchmarking tools included, such as Rising Stars.</p> <p>The challenging behaviours of our pupils can 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>As part of the Arts Award, school has participated in a project with Contact Theatre and made contact with the Lord Mayor of Hyde. As a governing body we are encouraging and acknowledging the community work that is being done in within the Arts.</p> <p>The Finance and Personnel Committee regularly reviews how the school uses the budget and the challenges facing school with changes to funding and the significant cost of being in a BSF school. The governors have paid particular attention to the change of the ICT service provider and the financial consequences this has had on the budget. At the Finance and Personnel meeting in October the committee approved the 2016/17 Budget Plan for the school with strong</p>



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	<p>concerns on how we can achieve a balanced budget in the future.</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 new Child Protection and Safeguarding policy which was drawn up by The Tameside Children’s Safeguarding Board and incorporates all the changes to the new Keeping Children Safe In Education guidance from the government.</p> <p>A Safeguarding Audit has been carried out and all requirements are being met.</p> <p>Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents – you can obtain a copy from the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>The governing body has had to set a deficit budget for 2016/2017. A deficit recovery plan will be produced, 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.</p> <p>As part of the Specialist Schools Support Partnership, the governing bodies of all special schools are to work in collaboration.</p>
<p>How you can contact the governing body</p>	<p>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.</p>



Thomas Ashton School Governing Body

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



School Governors' Attendance Record for 2015-2016

Governor	Full Governing Body	Curriculum & Standards Committee	Finance & Personnel	Safeguarding Committee
Mrs P Atkinson	100%	N/A	100%	100%
Mr John Clayton	66.6%	0%	66.6%	66.6%
Mr Robin Elms	100%	100%	100%	100%
Ms Denise Hayward	66.6%	N/A	N/A	66.6%
Mrs Dominique Kenneally	33.3%	N/A	N/A	66.6%
Mrs Kim McDonough	100%	66.6%	N/A	N/A
Mrs Janet Neild	100%	N/A	100%	N/A
Mrs Maureen Wallis	100%	66.6%	N/A	N/A
Miss Mandy Wilkins	33.3%	66.6%	N/A	N/A