Annual Governance Statement 2025-26

The 3 core strategic functions of Swinemoor Primary School's Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance Arrangements

The Governing Body of Swinemoor Primary School is made up of:

- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 1 Head Teacher Governor
- 1 Staff Elected governor
- 2 Parent Elected Governors
- 6 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.

The Governing Body appoints a professional Clerk for 3 meetings per year who is responsible for arranging meetings, taking minutes, and following up on all actions. The Clerk also advises on procedural matters where necessary.

The full Governing Body meets at least twice each term. Aside from the Headteacher's Appraisal Committee (Personnel and Pay Committee) there is one other General Purposes Committee of which all members of the Full Governing Body are a part of. This enables the whole Governing Body to take a broader and more informed holistic view of the school. The Headteacher's Appraisal Committee is supported by an external advisor.

In addition, the governors arrange targeted term-time visits that look at specific areas of activity that are linked to the school's vision or development plan. Specific monitoring is undertaken for the areas of Health and Safety and Safeguarding. After each visit a formal report is prepared and presented at the next Governing Body meeting.

The Governing Body and all the committees have clear terms of reference and all Governors are required to abide by a Code of Conduct.

Governors are volunteers and receive no payment for what we do although we can claim expenses. No governor at Swinemoor Primary School has claimed expenses in the last three years.

Most of the work of a Governing Body is not confidential and parents can attend meetings as observers. If you wish to do this, please contact the Chair of Governors.

Attendance Record of Governors

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never had to cancel a meeting. Full attendance records can be found on the school website, under Governor Information.

The Work We Have Carried Out This Year

During this year, Governors have:

- Maintained a balanced budget;
- Completed work on a 3-5 year strategic plan;
- Carried out performance monitoring activities;

- Gained further in-depth (anonymous) knowledge of children's attainment and progress;
- Supported, through the headteacher and school leaders in their efforts to undertake their National Professional Qualifications, and;
- Continued to support and recognise the value of RQTs into the school – and wider education arena
- Supported the Senior Leadership Team through a complex, and lengthy redundancy process

Governors review spending profiles on a termly basis and work with the school's headteacher and Operations Manager to ensure rigorous financial controls are in place.

The School Development Plan has been discussed and adopted at the Autumn Term Governing Body meeting.

Current Plans

The school development plan targets are as follows:

1.1 To ensure that the current high performance is maintained and relates favourably to national standards.

1.2 To secure achievement within the year commensurate with pay-scale expectations

2.1 Assessment of Foundation Subjects
To continue to develop and enhance an assessment system designed to ensure that the curriculum in foundation subjects is effective and that pupils are encouraged to 'value the remembering.

2.2 Reading Development
To continue to improve pupils' understanding of what they have read by developing the teaching and learning of inference skills.

3.1 To develop challenge within Mathematics across the school.

3.2 To improve the provision of SMSC in order to ensure that this is is current and relevant to the needs of our pupils.

Other plans include:

- Continue to work on developing further the aspects of our school which make us unique and uphold the School Aims.
- Consider how best to use governor's time and skills, ensuring our efforts are focused on our three core functions, and are always in line with our School Development Plan.
- Seek to ensure suitable succession planning is in place to help support the continued improvement of the school.
- Identification, selection and training of new governors. Making governance effective, timely, in line with our strategic and mandatory themes is key to effective governance.