

Annual Governance Statement for the Board of Governors of Milldene Primary School September 2021

The 3 core strategic functions of the Milldene Primary School Board of Governors 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 Board of Governors of Milldene Primary School is made up of 2 staff governors (including the Headteacher), 3 elected Parent Governors, 1 Authority Governor and 5 Co-opted governors. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Board of Governors and are people who, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. We currently have 2 vacancies and will be looking to fill these in the autumn term.

The full Board of Governors meets at least once each term. We have at least 6 meetings a year and they are structured to alternate the focus on curriculum and finance. This ensures a broad and balanced approach to our meetings and the most effective use of the school's time.

Staff have the opportunity during curriculum focus meetings to give reports to the whole governing board.

We also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail, such as committees that meet, when required, to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.

See Page 4 for a list of Governors.

Attendance record of governors

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). Even during the current COVID crisis we were able to hold virtual meetings online.

<p>The work that we have done in our committees and in the Board of Governors</p>	<p>The Board of Governors has had another busy year; in light of the ongoing Pandemic our focus has been on the health and well-being of staff and students at Milldene.</p> <p>We have very active and able governors, despite a number of resignations this year; we have recruited new governors so that we continue to have a good range of skills on the Board.</p> <p>Governors monitor the school to provide an independent view and greater insight into the school's functioning. We hold the headteacher and senior leaders to account to ensure good progress is made by all students.</p> <p>Governors regularly attend training and we have training from the School's staff.</p> <p><u>Curriculum, Standards and Community Links</u></p> <p>As governors we monitor the use of the Pupil Premium and Sports Premium funding and their impact on children's learning outcomes. We also monitor data of all pupils' attainment and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. This includes reports from independent sources. The Pandemic has reduced the amount of information available to us. However, we were very pleased to see the detailed in depth reports the school has continued to produce outlining children's progress.</p> <p>Safeguarding children is a major responsibility of the Board of Governors and something which we regularly monitor. During the pandemic Safeguarding has been an enhanced focus and formed part of every meeting and conversation we had with the school.</p> <p>Governors play a key role in monitoring special educational needs provision alongside holding the school to account for the pupils' academic performance. During the lockdowns we adapted our monitoring to include online learning and how well the school community was able to engage in digital classes</p> <p>The wellbeing of both the staff and the children is always a key consideration for all Governors and this year has been a particular challenge. The ongoing Covid Crisis has seen an unprecedented strain on all schools; as Governors we have looked to support the school in a variety of strategies designed to help the children and staff cope with these uncertain times.</p>
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	<p><u>Resources</u></p> <p>A key part of a Governor's role is to ensure the maintenance and development of the school premises and work closely with the school's Site Manager and Mr Nick Bagley (Consortium Premises Manager).</p> <p>Early in the summer term, we approved the 2021/22 budget plan for the school: we are pleased to report that the school, by careful budgeting, is still in the black.</p> <p>You will be aware that all schools are finding balancing budgets difficult in the current climate of rising costs as the budget allocated to the school is not keeping pace with these increases. Mrs Locke and the staff do an excellent job of keeping costs down and finding very creative ways to improve the provision for pupils. We are grateful for the help of Mrs Marks (Consortium Finance Manager).</p> <p>The Governors are monitoring the key targets of the school development plan and organising our monitoring around the targets set out in the plan.</p>
Future plans for the Governors	<p>As society opens up again, we will be supporting the school start to re-join activities outside of school, such as sport events and trips.</p> <p>As national testing restarts, we will be continuing to monitor the children's progress and holding the school to account to ensure that every child is making progress, regardless of ability or background. The school's ethos is very much 'no child gets left behind' and as Governors we will look to support this attitude.</p> <p>As a Governing Board one of our objectives is to reconnect with the school community. The Pandemic lead to different ways of working with bubbles etc, and this means many of the staff and students have not seen us in school for 18 months. As the school opens up we look forward to being in school to undertake monitoring and visiting assemblies again.</p>
How you can contact the Board of Governors	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. Please contact the Chair of Governors via the school office. You can see the full list of governors below. Governors' attendance at meetings; minutes of the Board of Governors meetings and more information about what we do is on the Governors' page of the school website.</p> <p>We currently have 2 vacancies and would be delighted to accept any applications to join our board.</p>

Milldene Primary School Board of Governors

Governor	Category	Term of office expiry date
Julia Griffiths	Co-Opted Governor	5/12/2024
Susan Locke (Head Teacher)	Staff Governor	Ex officio
Steph Reid	Parent Governor	20/09/2024
Jacqui Martin	Co-Opted Governor	17/3/2024
Vic Prior (Vice Chair)	Authority Governor	20/7/2025
Susie Threadgold (Chair of Governors)	Parent Governor	19/5/2023
Robyn Lang	Staff Governor	20/09/2024
Helen English	Co-Opted Governor	20/09/2025
Bill Aylett	Co-Opted Governor	20/09/2025