

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT for BROADBENT FOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

Academic Year 2023 / 2024

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of the Governing Body of Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery ("Broadbent Fold") 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
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Broadbent Fold consists of the following members:

- The Head Teacher
- 1 Staff Governor
- 3 elected Parent Governors
- Local Authority Governor vacancy
- 4 Co-opted Governors (1 Co-opted vacancy)
- 2 Associate Governors*

Total – 11 current members

*associate governors are permitted to advise the Governing Body but do not have the right to vote on any governance-related matter

A list of the current governors can be found on the Broadbent Fold website.

The Full Governing Body meets at least once each term. There are several Sub Committees that also meet, when necessary, to consider different aspects of the school in more detail, including:

- Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee
- Curriculum and Standards Committee
- Pay Committee
- Other committees as necessary.

All governor meetings can be found on the school website.

Broadbent Fold also has Link Governors, governors who are linked to specific areas of the school. They receive regular updates from the school on their areas and school visits are used to evidence the work in their linked area. Areas linked to specific governors include:

- Safeguarding

- Health and Safety
- Behaviour and Attitudes
- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- Leadership and Management
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Quality of Education
- GDPR
- Buildings and Premises
- Personal Development
- Governor Training
- Pupil Wellbeing
- Staff Wellbeing

Governance attendance and training

Governors' attendance at meetings is excellent. Meetings have always been quorate i.e. the minimum number of governors present to ensure that decisions are legally binding. Governor's attendance at meetings is noted and available on the school website.

Governor's individual visits to the school are documented through a report which details the specifics of the visit, allowing Governors to inform their fellow Governors on what they have learned, express what they have observed working well, whether anything needs clarification and any suggestions for improvement. These visits are discussed and reviewed at committee meetings.

Our Governors undertake a skills audit at the beginning of each year and attend training and refresher training to ensure the Governing Body continues to have the appropriate mix of skills and expertise to effectively undertake its functions. All new Governors are asked to complete an induction course, supported by the local authority, over three sessions, which gives a full overview of the role. All members of the Governing Body receive further training and are encouraged to attend events run by Tameside MBC, as well as other external bodies, for example the National Governance Association ("NGA"). We also have access to online learning through the NGA website, The School Bus and The Trust Governor online portals. This allows Governors to keep up to date with the responsibilities with regard to the latest requirements and expectations, as well as local and national best practice. The impact of this training is that Governors will have the skills they need to fulfil their role, e.g. to hold leaders to account or to better analyse data. A list of training attended and scheduled is kept and maintained by the Governing Body.

Further details of the work of each committee can be found on the school website, with terms of reference for each committee that gives further

explanation of the committee's key functions, the people involved, how the committee is structured and what is discussed and agreed.

The work that we have done within the Governing Body

- We have successfully completed an Ofsted Inspection in March 2023 – graded good.
- We continued to support both pupils and staff following the impact of the pandemic. There was a focus on bridging the particular learning gaps that the changes in school attendance, social interaction and cultural changes that the pandemic brought to bear. We continue to support pupils, staff and parents with the ongoing impact of this.
- Wellbeing of our whole school community has been a real focus. The mental health impact of the pandemic continues to be felt across school and we have put interventions in place to support all aspects of the school's wellbeing. It has become a real focus of our school day, now including in areas such as our class routines, staff meetings and governor committees.
- We have continued to monitor and revise the School Improvement Plan, building on our successes and looking to support the areas where we can make the biggest impact.
- We have had a major review of our premises condition and this has supported the replacement of the school roof, rewire, alongside new play equipment and the removal of redundant equipment.
- We attended regular meetings with Pupil Leaders and listened to their views regarding next steps for the school.

Future strategies for the Governing Body

- To support the school to strengthen Prime Areas of Learning; challenge the school leaders to embed a broad and balanced curriculum, supporting memory and transference of skills and knowledge.
- Monitoring and revising the School Improvement Plan, accelerating the progress of pupils across all subjects, with a specific focus on writing.
- Ensuring the financial stability of the school, in an era of challenging funding, staff pay increases, high inflation and rising energy prices.
- Continuing to support the wellbeing and mental health of all staff and children, ensuring that vulnerable learners are well supported in our environment and that we seek and support further initiatives to continue the wellbeing of the school community.
- Continue to review and agree policy revisions, in line with best practice and LA amendments
- Enabling subject leaders to take more autonomy for their areas and feed into the curriculum and learning
- Explore the process of academisation, given the government directive to target all schools to become an academy by 2030.

How to contact the Governing Body

We are always open to suggestions and feedback from parents. Please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr John Moon. Or our Vice Chair of Governors Mrs Jacqui Fendall via the school office.