

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body
of George Stephenson High School 2017 - 2018**

At George Stephenson High School we aim to provide the best possible educational experience for all through excellent teaching, positive and supportive relationships, a personalised and enriched curriculum, high aspirations and strong partnerships.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the Governing Body of George Stephenson High School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

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.

The Governing Body of George Stephenson High School, like the whole school has worked over the last year on defining its role and responsibilities. We believe our role is to advise, support and challenge the school in order to deliver outstanding education. We will do this by:-

1. Contributing to a structured involvement in school Governance
2. Listening, challenging and feeding back across all aspects of school life
3. Keeping informed on local and national education issues and using and improving our skillset and strengths to support continuous school improvement.
4. Being accountable to each other and to our Parents, Community, the Local Authority, Students and School for our actions.
5. At all times being a critical friend.

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of George Stephenson High School was re-constituted in September 2015 and is now made up of 2 staff governors (including the Headteacher), 7 elected Parent Governors, 2 Trust Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 8 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 term of office for our Governors is four years.

The full Governing Body meets once per term, and we also have a number of sub-committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. The full governing body has delegated authority to each sub-committee to plan and make decisions in line with their subject scope. Both the subject scope and any decisions are ratified at the full governing body. The sub-committees that meet termly are Personnel, Curriculum, Finance and Buildings and Teaching School Alliance. See below 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). See our website for details of individual governors' attendance at meetings.

Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body

The Governing Body has had a busy year, focusing on school improvement, the first year of the school being a Teaching School and undertaking link Governor visits. The Curriculum Committee has spent time considering the national changes to curriculum and assessment for the coming years and governors also discuss key data and the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is

	<p>on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils. We are also concerned about our vulnerable groups of children and focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their outcomes.</p> <p>The Finance and Buildings Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises, and makes decisions about how the school should use the budget. Governors are also particularly conscious about safeguarding and we have a Nominated Governor for Safeguarding (Mr Latham).</p> <p>One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we have considered and adopted a number of key policies.</p>
Assessment of Impact	<p>Governors have a greater understanding of the strategic role that they play in leading and managing the school. Minutes reflect the high level of challenge that Governors provide in questioning the Headteacher about actions that are taken by the school to raise standards, keep children safe and comply with statutory duties. Progress measures for pupils attending the school show accelerated progress.</p>
Future plans for the Governing Body	<p>The Governing Body is looking forward to continuing to make sure the school achieves the best possible outcomes for the students. We will continue to work closely with the Head Teacher and staff to ensure that teaching is of the highest quality and that all pupils are given every opportunity to make progress in their learning in line with local and national targets. We will review the school's performance and continue to provide both challenge and support to the Headteacher in respect of the school development plan. We will attend school on a regular basis and will continue to monitor the school budget and its future financial plans.</p>
How you can contact the governing body	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. Please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr Morley, via Karen Bradley, Clerk to the Governing Body, at the school.</p>

March 2018