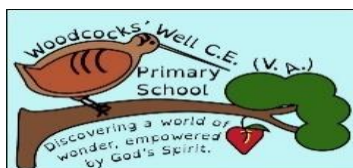


**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of
Woodcocks' Well CE (VA) Primary School
"Discovering a world of wonder, empowered by God's Spirit"**



July 2022

The Governing Body supports and challenges the headteacher to continually improve the school and provide the best education for every child. This Annual Governance Statement is one way in which the Governing Body communicates its work and the impact we have had on school improvement to our stakeholders.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 4 core strategic functions of the Perfect Primary School Governing Body are:

- 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- 2. Holding the head teacher 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.**
- 4. Promote the highest possible standards for Safeguarding.**

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Woodcocks' Well CE Primary School was re-constituted in 2014 following a conversion from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided. It is now made up of 7 Foundation Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor, 1 Staff Governor, 2 parent governor. The Head Teacher is an ex-officio governor.

This year we currently have 3 vacancies for Foundation Governors and 1 for a Community Governor

A broad range of skills is required to contribute to the effective governance and the success of the school. Audit skills document is undertaken annually to confirm that the Governing Body is able to demonstrate a suitable range of its skills. If new governors are required recruitment aims to fill identified gaps in skills. This year we have recruited new governors, and some governors have left. We continue to have a few positions unfilled and are working towards filling those we are in particular looking for someone with HR skills.

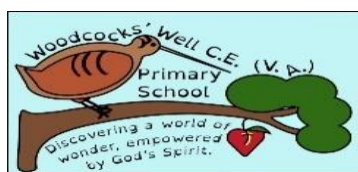
The Full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. At Woodcocks' Well CE PS we have a Resources Committee,

	<p>which focuses on finance, premises and some personnel matters and a Learning and a Well-Being Committee. We also have committees that meet if required to specific aspects of school life which include staffing matters.</p> <p>Please see Appendix 1 of all our Governors and their responsibilities.</p>
<p>Attendance record of governors and Committee Meetings</p>	<p>At the start of the school year 21/22, the Governing Body continued to meet virtually due to Covid19 restrictions with every meeting being quorate and overall attendance and commitment by governors remaining high. By the end of the 21/22 academic year governors were attending meetings within school.</p> <p>As well as continuing to meet its statutory obligations, the Governing Body maintained a particular focus on the wellbeing of the headteacher, the staff, and children and on the complexities of rebuilding after the disruption of the pandemic. Between Full Governing Body meetings, members of the Governing Body remained in close contact with the headteacher throughout this challenging period – providing support, considering and approving risk assessments, and monitoring the continued provision of learning.</p> <p>Despite some comparative data being unavailable due to the cancellation of national tests in the summers of 2020 and 2021, at Full Governing Body meetings governors continued to ask questions to ensure the school’s standards and expectations are high and scrutinised pupil progress across all ability groups including vulnerable groups, with a particular view to ensuring post COVID catch up support is well used.</p> <p>The school budget was scrutinised and reviewed in detail at Full Governing Body meetings, as well as by Mrs Beckett, the two bursars (Mrs Timmis and Mrs McKie) and also the Resources Chair (Maria Lawless) who are trained and experienced in school finances and who meet regularly with the school’s finance officer from Cheshire East, albeit this has been done virtually this academic year. Using benchmarking information, governors compare the school’s spending with similar schools and ensure resources are being used in the most effective ways to support the best education outcomes for all children. In 2021/22 the Governing Body was particularly keen to ensure the school was making effective use of the Pupil Premium and Catch Up Funding to deliver positive educational outcomes and mitigate some of the impact of the pandemic on pupil progress, particularly on vulnerable pupils.</p>
<p>Training for our Governors</p>	<p>To effectively fulfil its role, the Governing Body must ensure that all its governors have the required skills and knowledge to support the achievement of the school’s priority objectives. All members of Governing Body have undertaken extensive training as per our own Governor Charter. During the pandemic, training has been provided remotely by the Local Authority and this continue still today encouraging all our governors to attend at least one training session per month to keep up to date with the forever changing world we live in and to up skill themselves.</p> <p>The impact of this is that the Governing Body has kept up to date regarding the latest requirements and expectations from the Department for Education, governors are able to understand and challenge the information and data presented to them by their Head Teacher and Staff.</p>

	<p>During the past year in conjunction with all staff we have also been included in implementing the new vision for the school in order to guide future direction. This has fed into the School Improvement Plan. Governors monitor in accordance with our monitoring plan.</p> <p>The Governing Body, the headteacher and indeed all members of staff are constantly striving to improve and develop the school.</p>
<p>Head Teacher Performance Management</p>	<p>Mrs Beckett has now been with our school for 18 months so it has been vital, albeit our responsibility, that our Governors continued with the undertaking the headteacher's performance management review each year. A panel of governors, who have undertaken training, supported by an expert external advisor, carry out the headteacher's annual appraisal, which is reviewed at points throughout the year.</p> <p>This appraisal process allows the Governing Body to look closely at the headteacher's performance, and discuss areas of strength and, where necessary, areas for development. New targets are then set against criteria on which the headteacher's performance will be evaluated.</p> <p>Although Mrs Beckett has been with us only a short while, she has shown not only dedication but has achieved so much positively within the school with not only Governors but also all staff and most importantly our children. Thank you Mrs Beckett.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>This year, due to church closures, it has been difficult to link with St Luke's as a whole school including governor involvement however, the Head Teacher (Steph Beckett) has been working closely with the church to organise Family Services from 2022. Governors are working closely with staff via the curriculum to develop the Christian distinctiveness of the school -see SIAMs section below.</p> <p>Governors continue to play an important part in the whole life of the school engaging in many different school activities such as after-school clubs.</p>
<p>SIAMs</p>	<p>This year has been an exciting stage in the school life as far as SIAMS is concerned. It has seen the school getting to grips with the new SIAMS framework under the guiding hand of Mrs Stephanie Beckett with Governor expertise from Mrs Winterton our Vice Chair of Governors.</p> <p>It has been a busy year with teachers, TAs, governors and our amazing head all working together to see our distinct Christian vision start to be embedded and celebrated in and through all of the Woodcock's family stakeholders.</p> <p>The coming school year will see us build upon this as we strive to see our school attain good feedback from the Diocese in our SIAMS inspection which is due in 2023.</p> <p>Covid saw extra difficulties presented to the governance of our school with Governor's not being able to come into school due to Government Covid regulations. However, the last six months this has changed with Governors are now able and have been into school to, at last, do their links Governor roles. Link Governor reports are held within Governor hub and the ones completed this year have been Safeguarding, Science, Maths.</p> <p>The Governing body can confidently lead the way in our school with the understanding that they have a strong relationship with</p>

	<p>other stakeholders and a good knowledge base of what is expected of us to providing opportunities for our children to discover a world of wonder empowered by God's Spirit as a Church of England school.</p>
<p>The work we have done within the school</p>	<p>The Learning and Well Being Committee have continued to consider progress against the School Development Plan, particularly in relation to the number of pupils working at 'Greater Depth'.</p> <p>The implementation of the new curriculum in September 2021 has been key on how the classes would work best for the children and staff to ensure smooth transition from remote learning to "back in the classroom" learning.</p> <p>Governors also discussed key data giving the results of pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils.</p> <p>Governors continue to focus on the experience and outcomes of 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 progress. The progress and attainment of children entitled to Pupil Premium along with progress made by children with special educational is analysed by the school and averages reported to governors.</p> <p>The Resources Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises, and makes decisions about how the school should use the budget. In the spring term, the Resources Committee approved the 2022/23 budget plan for the school. With less money coming from government and the rise of utility bills and resources for classrooms, it has proven very difficult but can happily say that our heads are very much above water with spending cut to its maximum without disruption to staff or our children.</p> <p>Mrs Lawless is our Health and Safety Governor and she attends the annual Health and Safety Audit and meetings relating to the upkeep, care and safety of the school. Governors are also particularly concerned about safeguarding and we have a nominated governor for 'Safeguarding', a nominated governor for 'Child Protection', a nominated governor for 'Cared for Children' – nominated Governor for the above is Gemma Scott and a 'Pupil Premium Champion' governor (Mrs Scott).</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:</p> <p>Admissions 24/25 – January 2022 Attendance Policy February 2022 CCTV Policy February 2022 Emotional Health and Well-being Pupil Policy April 2022 Online Safety Policy May 2022</p> <p>The Governing Body is very pleased that good attendance figures at the school have been maintained when children have been able to come into school.</p> <p>Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents - you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.</p>

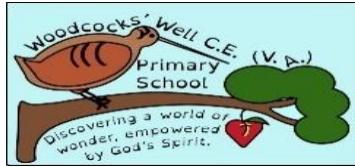
	<p>This year also saw the return of KS1 and KS2 SATS within all schools. This has been a particularly stressful time for everyone in particular all those year 6 children – not knowing what to expect after two years without them. All the children, Mrs Beckett and all staff involved were as prepared as ever and we couldn't have asked any more from our very enthusiastic children, some were even quite excited about them! Governors helped with the adjudication on a rolling rota system which had worked in the past and well again this time.</p>
How you can contact the governing body	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Maria Lawless, via the school office. If you wish to see a full list of our Governors please see this on our website under Our Governors.</p> <p>Minutes of governing body meetings are available on request by contacting the school office.</p>



Instrument of Government - Total Number 11 Governors

Updated 13th June 2022

Name of Governor	Governor Category	Appointment Date	Committee Membership R = Resources L = Learning, Community & Well Being	Business Interest	Financial Interest	Governance Roles in other Schools
Ruth Winterton Vice-Chair of Governors	Foundation	19.03.2019	R L	None	None	None
Maria Lawless Chair of Governors	Foundation	17.11.2015	R L	Spouse of school fund auditor, PTFA Auditor. A member of the PTFA NOT a Trustee	Spouse of school fund auditor, PTFA auditor. A member of the PTFA NOT a Trustee	None
Dr Kate Walchester Chair of Govs	Foundation	17.11.2015	L R	Spouse of Building Consultant	Spouse of Building Consultant	None
Ian Doughty	Foundation	17.11.2015	R L	Links with Congleton Museum	Links with Congleton Museum	None
Rector Philip Atkinson	Foundation ex-officio	-	R L	None	None	None
Jo McKie	Foundation	9.3.2013	R L	None	None	None
Steph Beckett Head Teacher	Ex-Officio	-	R L	None	None	None
Vicky Jackson	Staff Governor	18.11.2014	L	None	None	None
Gemma Scott	Local Authority Governor	15.10.2019	L	None	None	None
Steve Garratt	Parent Governor	29.09.2021	R	A member of the PTFA but not a Trustee	A member of the PTFA but not a Trustee	None
Lindsay Johnson	Parent Governor	29.09.2021	L	A member of the PTFA but not a Trustee	A member of the PTFA but not a Trustee	None



Additional Responsibilities

Instrument of Government - Total Number 11 Governors

Updated 13th June 2022

Community (Co-opted)

1 Vacancy

Foundation (7)

Maria Lawless **Chair**

Ruth Winterton **Vice-Chair**

Dr Kate Walchester

Ian Doughty

Rector Philip Atkinson

Jo McKie

2 vacancies

Local Authority

Gemma Scott

Head Teacher

Steph Beckett

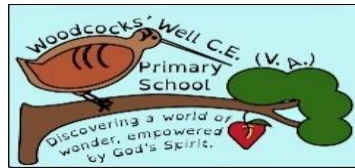
Parent

Lindsay Johnson

Steven Garratt

Staff Governor

Vicky Jackson



Sub Committees – Updated 13th June 2022

Resources Sub Committee Members

M.Lawless (Chair)
R.Winterton
K Walchester
Rec. Philip Atkinson
J.McKie
S.Beckett
I.Doughty
S.Garratt

Learning, Well Being & Community Sub Committee Members

K.Walchester (Chair)
M.Lawless
R.Winterton
I.Doughty
S.Beckett
Rev P.Atkinson
V.Jackson
J.McKie
L.Johnson
G.Scott

Admissions Authority / Early Years Committee

S.Beckett
J.McKie
M.Lawless
S.Scott
L.Johnson

Head Teacher Performance Management Sub Committee Members

R.Winterton
Rec P.Atkinson
S.Garratt

Pupil Discipline Committee

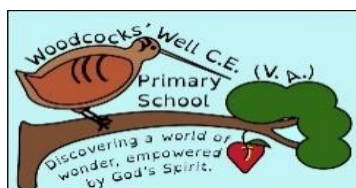
Resources Committee

Staff Disciplinary / Dismissal Committee

Resources Committee

Staff Appeals Committee

Learning and Well Being Committee



Curriculum Responsibilities- Governors & Staff

Updated 13th June 2022

<u>Areas</u>	<u>Governor</u>	<u>Teaching Staff</u>
English	K.Walchester	S.Beckett
Maths	J McKie	S.Beckett
Science	S.Garratt	L.Phillips
RE	Rec P. Atkinson/R. Winterton	A. Edwards
RSHE	R. Winterton	S.Beckett
Computing	S.Garratt	V. Jackson/J. McKie
Music	L. Johnson	I. Harley
MFL	K. Walchester	S. Beckett
Humanities/Art	M. Lawless	J. Horton
PE	L. Johnson	I. Harley
SEND	M. Lawless	S. Beckett/J. McKie
Relationships & Health	M. Lawless	S. Beckett
Assessment & Monitoring	M. Lawless	S. Beckett/V. Jackson
Attendance	M. Lawless	S. Beckett
Residential Visits	M. Lawless	V. Jackson
Child Protection	G. Scott	S. Beckett
Cared For Children	G. Scott	S. Beckett
Safeguarding	Rec P. Atkinson	S. Beckett
Pupil Premium Champion	G. Scott	S. Beckett
Health & Safety	M. Lawless	S. Beckett/A. Timmis
Coronavirus Catch up premium	M. Lawless	S. Beckett
Remote Learning	M. Lawless	S. Beckett
EYFS	G. Scott	A. Edwards