

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of  
The Federation of Snape and Thornton Watlass Primary Schools**  
<http://stwschools.org/>

### **1. Background**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Snape and Thornton Watlass' 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

### **2. Governance arrangements**

The governing body of the Federation of Snape and Thornton Watlass primary schools was reconstituted in 2015 and consists of 11 governors in total.

The range of skills required to contribute to effective governance and the success of the school are reflected in the following governor experience:

- Financial Management
- Education
- Strategic Business Planning and Leadership
- Health and Safety
- Safeguarding

The governing board has a programme of meetings throughout the school year, and a committee structure that focuses on two specific areas of governance; Finance and Resources and School Improvement. The board meet four times in one academic year and full board meetings are preceded by meetings of the two committees.

Reports are presented to the full board following these committee meetings. A list of Governors and their roles can be found on the school website at :

<http://stwschools.org/governors-of-the-federation/nggallery/thumbnails>

### **3. Attendance record of governors**

A record is kept by the clerk to the governing body, of governors' attendance at meetings. The record for 2014-15 is available on the school website. Meetings need to be 'quorate' to ensure that key strategic decisions can be made. A meeting is quorate if 50% or more governors are in attendance.

### **4. Monitoring activity**

The governors have regularly spent time in school observing lessons and speaking with staff about progress of areas highlighted in the School Development Plan. The following priorities have been monitored by assigned governors during the academic year 2014 - 2015:

- Attainment levels in Maths and particularly instant recall facts
- Progress levels in writing and integrating writing across the curriculum
- PE funding and implementing a range of PE activities
- Reorganisation of the two school sites to provide the best possible learning environments for the Early Years Foundation Stage at Snape and key stage 1 and 2 at the Thornton Watlass site.

## **5. Performance data**

The school's most recent attainment data can be found by clicking the following link to our website: <http://stwschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Summary-of-Attainment.pdf>

## **6. Financial management**

The Finance and Resources Committee have overseen the strategic financial management of the school's budget and, in particular, in 2014-15 have been involved in significant planning, support and challenge of the decision to collaborate with another local school and recruit a shared executive headteacher with Kell Bank school .

## **7. Policy review**

All school policies are reviewed on a rolling programme. Appropriate amendments are agreed and adopted by the Governing Body following robust discussion and reflecting a clear evidence base for the need to review key elements.

## **8. Strategic Planning for the future**

The following areas have been identified by the governing board as being key for the year ahead, and will be a focus for monitoring activities in 2016/17

- Adoption of the new school performance tracker and monitoring and understanding the new formats for progress and attainment data
- The organisation of the two school sites and ensuring this organisation is working to achieve the best possible learning outcomes for the children
- Providing support to and monitoring the performance of the federation's Executive Head teacher
- Regular scrutiny and review of the Federation development plan

## **How to contact the school's governing body**

Full details of the school's governing board are on the Schools website. If you would like to contact the governors

Written: October 2015

Review: October 2016