

HUNTINGDON NURSERY SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-21

School Context

Relevant to 2020/2021

Huntingdon Nursery School serves the local community of Huntingdon Town and is the hub for Huntingdon Town Children's Centre.

51% of our children take up an early funded two's place and start Nursery the term after they are two years old. We supporting these children and families earlier to develop key skills ready for further learning in Nursery prior to moving on to primary school.

61% of our current families live in an area of deprivation and 39% of our families accessing a 'free at three' Nursery place are eligible for EYPP funding. The school accessing deprivation funding and EYPP to support these families.

39% of our families' home language is not English – this reflects the diverse nature of our community.

The Nursery School is committed to meeting the needs of all children and has over time developed a good reputation for its support of Children with additional needs.

During 2020-2011 we supported ten SEND children, personalising their experiences to ensure they are well engaged in their learning and make good progress in all prime areas of learning.

This statement seeks to outline the impact of governance arrangements at Huntingdon Nursery School throughout the course of the 2020-21 academic year.

Governor Membership, Vacancies and Attendance

The Instrument of Government for Huntingdon Nursery School allows for 11 governors across different categories.

The Governing Body Membership currently stands at 8, with 3 vacancies that the Governing Body continues to work hard to recruit to.

Through the course of the 2020-21 Academic Year, the Governing Body has lost a staff governor following long service and 1 associate governor stepped down during a maternity break, which has unfortunately further reduced the overall capacity and membership of the board.

The Governing Body does not currently have parent representation.

Over the course of the 2020-21 Academic Year, the Governing Body has been chaired by Fay Sharp.

The work of the Governing Body has been supported by Ms K. Dodsley, as Clerk to Governors. Ms K. Dodsley has given her notice and will cease to support the Governing Body at the end of Summer Term 2021.

HNS GB have requested support with recruiting another clerk.

Year 2020/21 has presented personal and professional challenges for all governors, resulting in variable attendance and engagement with the training and work of the Governing Body.

Further information about governor attendance can be found on the school website.

The Structure of Governance

In addition to meeting as a Full Governing Body, Huntingdon Nursery School has had 5 committees, as follows:

- Teaching & Learning
- Finance
- Personnel
- Safeguarding
- Premises & resources

Following a review of the committee structure supported by a leader of Governance, The Governing Body voted in April 2021 FGB meeting to streamline committees from 5 to 2 (as shown below) in order to ensure sufficient oversight, support and accountability towards areas of identified priority and statutory coverage.

The committees are now named:

- Resources Committee – focusing on HR, Finance, Health & Safety and Premises
- Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee – focusing on the curriculum, assessment and data, SEND and Pupil Premium expenditure, and the impact of this funding.

Committees and the Governing Body overall have a continued oversight of the school's safeguarding responsibilities and manage the updates of school policies aligned to the areas of responsibility.

In addition to the above, the school also constitutes a pay committee and Headteacher Performance Management Panel annually from within the Resources Committee.

Committees related to purposes such as dealing with complaints or exclusions are constituted as they are required, in line with the determining policy guidance.

Impact of the work of the Full Governing Body

Over the course of the last academic year, the Governing Body has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Oversight of the school's Risk Assessment regarding Covid-19 and enabling safe access to school for children and adults
- Received updates from the Headteacher to inform their work in response to the pandemic, in order to ensure the continued education and safety of all children.
- Overseeing updates with regard to the progress made against the School Development Plan
- Considered and agreed by voting, on which proposed staffing structure to put forward for consultation in order to address HNS deficit budget.

Impact of the work of the combined Resources Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the combined Resources Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Exploring and proposing to FGB how best to structure the school's staffing and classes in future years to ensure a continued quality of education and financial sustainability
- Continued review of Covid risk assessments in line with county and national guidance (*HT carries our individual RA with vulnerable staff and further RA to ensure premises were secure*)
- Promoting improved attendance for children returning from lockdown during the pandemic within school (*flexible return to school to support parent anxiety, shared protective measures with parents to increase parent confidence for their children in school, parent questionnaires' capture parents' positive view of safety measure in place*)
- Monitored well-being of HNS community, including all staff, children & their families (*well-being calls, use of bi-lingual assistant to call families where appropriate, food hampers, regular supervision with staff focusing on well-being*)

Impact of the work of the Teaching and Learning Committee

Over the course of the last academic year, the Teaching and Learning Committee has demonstrated notable impact with regard to:

- Ensuring that children have been able to engage in remote learning (*school Facebook page, home activity pack delivered, food parcels, individualised learning packs for children with SEND, feedback & photos from parents showing children's engagement in home activities*)

- Ensuring that school leaders have adapted the school's curriculum to accommodate children's lost learning over the course of the pandemic

(continue small bubble groupings to ensure consistency of staff promoting positive child-adult relationships in school, focus on prime areas of EYFS, secured funding to offer play therapy for identified children to develop self-regulation at home and in school)

Summer Term – focus on relationship and outdoor learning building on the children's interest and in the moment planning

- Ensuring that the school has adopted an updated curriculum approach towards teaching children about relationships.
- Ensuring EYPP and SEND funding had a positive impact for individual children and families *(1:1 adult support, additional QT to support vulnerable children who have 'missed' learning time in school during lockdowns, ensuring children are supported and well placed to engage in their next phase of learning in yellow class)*

Governor Training

Governors' work is collective. We are proactively seeking a more diverse representation in the recruitment of new parent governors, so we are able to benefit from different points of view and considerations within meetings. The Governing Body has also benefitted from training courses on the following topics throughout the course of the year:

- Safeguarding – to effectively fulfil our duties in quality assuring the safeguarding arrangements for all children at Huntingdon Nursery School.
- Safer recruitment – for the safety of all & to ensure safer recruitment guidelines and procedures are followed
- Head teacher performance management – to support effective HT performance management; well-being, leading the school, effective target setting and review
- EYFS reforms – in preparation for implementation September 2021
- LA Briefings – to remain up to date with latest Local Authority information regarding the approaches towards safe school reopening

Governor Monitoring

Alongside attending meetings, governors complete school visits during the year to enhance their understanding of school life and particularly this year, there has been a focus on risk assessment, mental health and well-being, home learning and development of basic skills within the prime areas of EYFS.

These visits have only been able to take place during times when the school is open to visitors. Zoom virtual sessions have also taken place.

Throughout the course of this year,
Governors have undertaken particular monitoring in relation to:

- Safeguarding (regular audits to ensure safeguarding paperwork and document are stored securely, in line with county guidance)
- The Curriculum (through Teaching & Learning committee)
- SEND (SEND governor carried out monitoring visit, SEND register, observation and assessment, interventions)
- Premises, Health and Safety (regular H&S walks, ensure building is Covid secure, share RA with H&S and Union reps, create bubbles and demarcate areas, support maintenance and safety of shared school site, schedule for repairs resulting in replacement of barrier)

Forward Planning

The Governing Body will look to review the impact of 2020-2021 and embrace positive changes to its work in the forthcoming academic year (*bubble structure in classes, FGB to continue on zoom, well-being of HT and parents' able to access to meetings*)

This will include:

- Implement structure from Governor Annual Planner in order to maintain a clear focus of work through the year
- Ensure at the school is suitably prepared for OFSTED inspection
- Support the school to successfully embed the new Early Years Reforms, namely revision of observation and assessment procedure, enhanced parent partnership
- Ensure completion of consultation and implementation plan to address deficit budget in a 3-year period
- Seek Governor Support and guidance with regard to improved knowledge of local partners and forge relationships with a view to possible future federation opportunities.

Other information and contact

Further information regarding the work of the Governing Body can be found at:

www.huntingdon-nur.cambs.sch.uk

this includes information regarding attendance of governors and their Declarations of Interest.

Alternately, stakeholders are always welcome to engage with the work of the Governing Body by contacting the Chair of Governors or head teacher via email



Cambridgeshire
County Council

fsharp@huntingdon-nur.cambs.sch.uk or
head@huntingdon-nur.cambs.sch.uk respectively, regarding the work of the
Governing Body.