

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of
Solway Community School
September 2016**

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Solway Community School Governing Body are:

- 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.**

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Solway Community School is made up of 14 Governors: 5 Parent Governors, 1 LA Governor, 1 staff Governor, 1 Headteacher and 6 co-opted Governors. 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 Solway Community School we have three committees:

- Finance and Staffing which focuses on finance and staffing matters
- Buildings, Health and Safety which oversees premises and safety matters
- Curriculum, Pupil and Parents which focuses on teaching, learning and academic matters as well as the running of the school including attendance, safeguarding, community cohesion and communication with parents.

We also have committees that meet if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters. Each Governor is also aligned to a particular subject, and holds regular meetings with Heads of Departments to review progress and activities.

Attendance record of governors

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings. Details of individual governors' attendance records in 2015/16 are available on our website.

The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body

The Governing Body has had a busy year supporting our new Headteacher to launch and embed a new vision and strategy. They are delighted to report that progress throughout school has accelerated markedly, and attainment has much improved since 2015.

The Finance and Staffing committee have dealt with budgets, revenue and capital spends for this year and have ensured that

	<p>our three year budget is on track and is healthy as well as supporting the Headteacher in improving the performance of our staff. They have supported the recruitment of several new members of staff to replace leavers.</p> <p>The Buildings, Health and Safety committee have been working on supporting the installation of new windows and doors and other internal improvements, as well as ensuring the health and safety of staff, pupils and visitors through the Staff and Governor walkabouts and by monitoring the staff health and safety committee.</p> <p>The Curriculum, Pupil and Parents has looked at and supported our pupil progress and attainment actions this year, including launching and embedding new progress measures and analyses. They have also supported activities around encouraging full attendance and good behaviour in school.</p> <p>One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we have reviewed all of the policies in our committees and full governor meetings, and have adopted some new policies in line with Local Authority guidance. Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents – they are available on request from the Clerk to the Governors.</p>
<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>The Governing Body are working hard to encourage more pupils to come to our school. Our sixth form, launched in September 2015, has enabled local children to stay in their home town for AS and A level in future, and may encourage younger children to join us intending to stay with us for their entire school career. Several pupils joined the sixth form in September 2016.</p> <p>Our strategy for 2016-17 includes supporting and challenging the Headteacher’s approach to improving the standard of teaching and learning, accelerating progress and improving attainment at all levels, in particular for Pupil Premium students.</p> <p>We also continue to focus on attendance, safety and safeguarding, robust budgeting and financials and ensuring our pupils get the best possible outcome from their time with us.</p>
<p>How you can contact the governing body</p>	<p>We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents. Please contact the Clerk to the Governors via the school office. You can also obtain minutes of governing body meetings and more information about what we do from the Clerk.</p>

	We have provided details of governors and their attendance at meetings on our website and will continue to do so on a regular basis.
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