

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Horden Nursery School 2017/18



Our Nursery School Vision

At Horden Nursery School our vision is to create a happy and friendly environment where all children feel safe, secure and valued. Alongside an experienced and caring team of staff, children will be encouraged to follow their own interests, develop their thinking and independence in an environment which supports creativity, curiosity and imagination.

Children will be offered a wide range of exciting experiences and challenges, to support them in making their own decisions, take risks and understand the world around them.

We strive to build upon each child's individual home experiences through trusting and supportive relationships, ensuring diversity is celebrated and everyone is valued.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all Governing Bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Horden Nursery 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, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance arrangements

The full governing body consists of the following people who have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of our school:

- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 2 Co-opted Governors
- 3 parent Governors (2 vacancies)
- 1 staff Governor
- The Headteacher

The full governing body meets once a term.

	<p>We also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in more detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance, Premises and Grounds committee- look in greater detail at the school budget, financial planning and consider the upkeep of the building and premises • Performance Management- meet annually to discuss the head teacher and deputy head teacher's performance in relation to previously agreed targets • First/Pay review committee- meet annually to consider any pay awards • Appeal Committee- meet when required. This committee is formed by members of the governing body that were not involved in any original decisions that may have led to an appeal being lodged <p>Individual governors have areas of special interest and visit or liaise with the school in order to monitor and keep informed and updated. All minutes and notes of visit are shared with all governors at full governing body meetings. Governors are encouraged to attend training events as individuals or as a full governing body in order to support and offer challenge to the school.</p>
<p>Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body</p>	<p>The governing body of Horden Nursery School are dedicated and take pride in their role. Governors have a good understanding of Early Years Education and they are able to hold the Headteacher and Senior Leaders to account. Governors work very closely with the Headteacher and Nursery staff. They are passionate about delivering high quality experiences for all our children and supporting parents and the wider community. Governors visit the Nursery regularly to ensure the provision on offer is of a high standard and that children's behaviour for learning is the best it can be.</p> <p>The governing body have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported and ensured that the nursery offer is developed to support more choice and extended hours for families, including planning for the implementation of 30 hour provision • Supported a growing offer for 2 year old children, focusing on the environment, teaching and learning and staffing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved safeguarding and security through improvements to the building and its grounds • Guided the advertising and publicising of the nursery school to help increase numbers • Ensured Early Years Pupil Premium funding supports and extends the needs of the children in receipt of them • Supported the establishment of more formal systems that ensure sharing of best practise amongst staff • Supported the increasing role of developing outstanding Early Years Practice across Durham Schools and beyond.
<p>Assessment of Impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Nursery School continues to grow and develop in line with the needs of our children, their families and the community. We have developed a flexible, full day offer for children who are 2, 3 and 4 years old and have planned for the implementation of 30 hour provision. We have built upon our extended services of breakfast, early drop off sessions and lunch club, extending the number of children who are able to access these. We have carefully considered staffing and quality of provision through all decisions made. • We have developed a high quality environment both indoors and outdoors to support 2 year old children. We have extended our offer for two year olds to meet the high demand for both funded places and paid places, whilst ensuring the quality of teaching and learning remains high. Our two year old children now have their own indoor and outdoor environment that is stimulating and meets their specific needs. • Safety and security to the front of our building has been greatly improved with the installation of new gates and fencing. This has supported the creation of a safe and secure environment for our youngest learners. • Through specific and targeted advertising and sharing of best practice we have increased the number of new admissions to nursery. This is reflected in the number of two year old children on roll. This has supported our budget and has ensured that we can retain high quality staff.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through effective use of our EYPP funding, data highlights that the great majority of eligible children made outstanding progress across all areas of learning. Directed interventions, alongside overall teaching and learning have supported a significant increase of children exiting in line or above expectations. • Formal systems are now in place whereby best practice is shared amongst staff. Staff have a good understanding of the systems and the impact can be seen through records of observations of teaching and learning and staff feedback. • We have supported the LA to raise standards by providing high quality training packages for nursery units and PVI settings. The LA have used us as a 'model of best practice' signposting settings to visit our nursery. Feedback from such courses and visits has been very positive, with many settings returning for additional support.
<p>Future plans for the Governing Body</p>	<p>The Governing Body have identified the following actions to improve their effectiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to participate in the new Nursery School Governor Network that has been established across the Local Authority • To further develop governor areas of 'special interest' and the monitoring of these, to include governors being assigned to areas relating to school priorities • To participate in relevant training to develop their skills and role as a governor and to support best practice across the school • To raise the visibility of the governing body within school, making regular visits • To campaign for the future sustainability of the Nursery School with changes proposed to EY funding arrangements
<p>Contact Details</p>	<p>The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Jane Long, c/o the school office.</p> <p>Details of the full Governing Body are available on the school website.</p>

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