

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of
Great Dunham Primary School**

February 2021



*Inspired to learn,
motivated to achieve*

Celebrating school successes

Our focus, as always, remains firmly directed at improving outcomes for all children by delivering quality first teaching and maximising progress and attainment in a manner which is consistent with our school vision of *‘creating a school that unlocks the potential of every child’*.

Great Dunham is a special place – enjoyment and challenge are at the heart of all we do. We believe every child is unique and aim to nurture them in a happy, safe and secure environment; whilst inspiring them to learn with a stimulating, challenging and exciting curriculum that motivates them to achieve.

The school continues to be popular and we had a cohort of 10 new starters joining us in September 2020, with 4 joining us throughout Key Stage 1 & 2; maintaining the number on roll of 65.

Whilst Covid-19 has prevented many of the children being together in the classroom for the majority of this academic year, it has not dampened our sense of community or ability to create many memorable moments during 2020-2021:

- We are a small school with a big heart; our children have raised funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, the Foodbank, the Royal British Legion (poppy day), Children in Need, Say No to Racism.
- We are an inclusive school which actively promotes awareness and acceptance of religious and cultural differences; for example, we take part in Black History month, LGBTQ+ month.
- The whole school have benefited from a range of educational visits and interaction within the local school network:

Class	Visit/Visitors	Related Topic / Learning
Rec/Y1/Y2	Night Before Christmas event	British Values
Y3/4	Swaffham Museum visit to school Virtual visit to Houses or Parliament Cats Protection Virtual workshop	Ancient Egypt UK Parliament week Ancient Egypt / Life skills
Y5/6	Chriss Lubbe workshop	Black History Month
Whole School	NSPCC Workshops Introduction of Outdoor Learning which in the second lockdown developed into Feel Good Friday Anti-bullying week Road Safety week Virtual visits from parents to share their children’s learning	Life skills / Computing

Sadly Y3/4 residential to Kingswood September 2020 was cancelled together with Y5/6 London residential in May 2021.



Community Interaction	Date
In school and virtual VE Day Street Party/Sing a long	June 2020
Virtual Meet the Teacher	September 2020
Harvest Festival at St Andrews	September 2020
Virtual Halloween Bingo	October 2020
Remembrance Service at St Andrews led by Rev. Miriam	November 2020
Christingle Service at St Andrews led by Rev. Miriam	December 2020
Virtual Christingle with Ely Cathedral	December 2020
Elf Day in support of Dementia UK	December 2020
Virtual Christmas Quiz	December 2020
Virtual Christmas Bingo	December 2020
Christmas Dinner	December 2020

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the school staff who work extremely hard to ensure that all our children receive the best experiences they can. As a result, standards are maintained and improved. Pupils are happy, safe and have a love of learning which is evident in their classrooms, their books and their attitudes to learning. May we also take this opportunity to thank our school parents for the continued and unstinting support of your children which enables them to maximise their potential.

Governance arrangements

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing boards, the 3 core strategic functions of Great Dunham Primary School Governing Board are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

In exercising their functions the governing body shall

- Act with integrity, objectivity and honesty and in the best interests of the school; and
- Be open about the decisions they make and the actions they take and in particular shall be prepared to explain their decisions and actions to interested parties.

Our governing body has a code of conduct which is reviewed and agreed annually. All governors are obliged to abide by this code.

The current Instrument of Governance (IoG) for the Governing Board of Great Dunham Primary School was signed in 2017. The membership is as follows:

Governor Type	IoG	Appointed	
Parent	4	3	J. Lakey, A. Preston, W. Griffiths
LA	1	1	B. Upton
Staff	1	1	J. Whitty
Co-opted	5	2	L. Elvin, K. Whitlock
Headteacher	1	1	S. Nour
Total	12	8	

Chair of Governors K. Whitlock

Vice-Chair of Governors J. Lakey

In order to discharge their duties effectively the Governing body has a range of skills. These include experience in financial management, teaching and learning, leadership, data and analysis, health and safety, safeguarding and performance management. We work hard to ensure we provide the right mix of support and challenge so that the school continues to develop and maintain a high quality educational experience for every child.

Note that co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Board and are people who, in the opinion of the governing board, not only have a strong commitment to the school but the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school; on our Governing Board 2 of the Co-opted governors are parents and the remaining is a member of the local community.

In 2020, we sadly said goodbye to 1 parent governor. Mrs L Cooper was thanked for her significant and valuable contribution to the work of the governors. The time and effort required to carry out the role effectively should not be underestimated, and we are fortunate to have a group of talented and committed individuals, all giving freely of their time to work in the best interests of the school and its pupils.

The Full Governing Board (FGB) meets once each half term.

The governing body delegates some specific functions to some governors covering specific areas of school life. These governors are known as Link Governors. Our school has the following link governors:

Area of responsibility	Named Governor
Arts	J. Lakey
Computing	W Griffiths
EYFS	L. Elvin
Health and Safety	A. Preston
Humanities	K. Whitlock
Maths	L. Elvin
PE and Sports Premium	W. Griffiths
Pupil Premium	J. Lakey
Safeguarding	B. Upton
Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)	K. Whitlock

Attendance record of governors

Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not “quorate” (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). A record is kept by the clerk of the governing body, and can be viewed on our website.

The work done by our governing board

The Governing Board has had a particularly busy year focusing on school improvement, with support from an LA adviser, and looking forward to the future plans for the school. We are an outward looking team that regularly seek external collaboration and validation of our judgements, including quality of teaching and learning; we work closely with local schools within the Litcham Cluster, Cherry Tree Academy and Unity Education Trust, as well through the Viscount Nelson Education Trust to seek improved outcomes for our children.

The full governing body discuss 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 aspirational targets for all pupils. We are also concerned about our “vulnerable groups” of children and focus on how the Pupil Premium and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Funding is being spent by the school and what impact this has on their outcomes. We welcomed Mr Justin Blocksidge as our SENDCo in January 2021, in a purchase agreement with Unity Education Trust.

We are ambitious for our children and want them to fulfil their potential and achieve the best results possible; it is equally important to governors to ensure that when they leave Great Dunham Primary they are confident, articulate, socially aware young people who are well prepared for the next stage of their life and education. We continue to maintain our approach of focussing on the 'whole child' to ensure that every child is given the support and encouragement to develop, socially, emotionally and academically.

The Governing Body looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises, and makes decisions about how the school should use the budget. We adhere to best value purchasing guidance, undertake annual financial benchmarking as well as completion of the annual statutory Schools Financial Value Standard. Our Health and Safety Governor carries out termly checks of the premises with the school’s site manager. Our RAG rating demonstrates that governors are also compliant with the annually required finance training.

Governors are also particularly concerned about safeguarding. The entire governing body undertakes annual safeguarding training and we have a nominated safeguarding governor who reports to every FGB meeting about any safeguarding matters. An external safeguarding audit is undertaken, as well a Single Central Record check bi-annually.

One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, we continually review our policies; to ensure that they are reflective of the school vision and ethos and in-line with the most recent legislation.

Minutes of Governing Board and Committee meetings are public documents – you can either find them on the Governors’ page of our website or you can ask at the school office if you would like a copy of any of the minutes of our meetings.

Future plans for the governors

All plans are aimed at improving the learning experiences we offer all pupils and raising achievement levels.

Key Priorities for 2021-2022:

1. Ensure improved attainment and progress in Maths and Writing across the whole school.
2. Increase challenge for all pupils to develop the number of children working at Greater Depth.
3. Ensure equal rates of progress for all pupil groups, such as boys, and disadvantaged.
4. Continue to develop parental and community engagement.

How you can contact the governing board

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, via the school office.

You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; minutes of governing board meetings and more information about what we do, on the governors' page of the school website.