

*Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of  
Laurel Avenue Community Primary School 2017 -2018*



***Ofsted, December 2014***

*The relentless drive of leaders and governors is making sure pupils achieve well, teaching is good and the school is improving.*

*The Governing Body of Laurel Avenue Community Primary School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:*

- 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 Governing Body is made up of 11 positions as follows:*

-  *Three Parent Governors*
-  *One Authority Governor appointed by the Local Authority*
-  *One Staff Governor appointed by a ballot of staff*
-  *One Headteacher Governor*
-  *Five Co-opted Governors appointed by the Governing Body themselves*

*The current Governors are listed in Appendix 1 and all have the same responsibilities. All are volunteers, giving up their own time to fulfil the roles for the benefit of our children. At the time of writing we have no vacancies.*

*The full Governing Body meets once a term. We have terms of reference that help us to ensure all the topics we are required to discuss each year are covered, and we have three main sub-committees that perform much of the detailed work in accordance with their terms of reference.*

 *Learning, Teaching and Achievement Committee. Responsible for reviewing the curriculum related policies of the school, and ensuring that the school's Self Evaluation is conducted appropriately and development plans implemented.*

 *Finance and Premises Committee. Responsible for setting and monitoring the budget for the school, and overseeing the financial management of the school.*

	<p> <i>Community and SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural). Responsible for monitoring safeguarding, health and safety, nutritional standards, and the Accessibility Plan. This committee also monitors all SMSC across school, including anti-bullying and effective pupil groups such as the School Council.</i></p> <p><i>We also have a Pay and Performance Committee which is responsible for monitoring staff performance and a Personnel Committee that meets if required to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters.</i></p> <p><i>The current Governing Body is comprised of experienced Governors who have been working together as a team for quite a number of years.</i></p>
<p><i>Attendance Record of Governors</i></p>	<p><i>Appendix 1 lists the attendance record for each of the Governors.</i></p> <p><i>Many Governors are not educational specialists but bring experience and skills from other professions that help us together to form an effective Governing Body. Attendance at meetings is only part of the role. Reading and preparation are required for each meeting and the various actions require regular contact with school. Governors also talk to staff and get involved in many events that happen across the year. A number of Governors are parent helpers who are extremely active in school, volunteering for Breakfast Club as well as being very dedicated members of the Friends of Laurel Avenue Society. In line with our continuous improvement ethos we encourage all Governors to undertake Governor training each year, and most fulfil this responsibility. Training 2017 – 2018 including Resilience, Restorative Approach, Challenge within Governor Body Meetings and individual Governors have attended training for new Governors and on Health and Safety and Governing Monitoring by visiting classrooms.</i></p>
<p><i>Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body</i></p>	<p><i>The Governing Body were awarded with the Governor Mark in December 2015.</i></p> <p><i>Governors have spent time considering the 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 ambitious targets for all pupils. We are also concerned about our vulnerable groups of children and focus on how the Pupil Premium Grant/Early Years Pupil Premium is being spent by school and what impact this has on their outcomes.</i></p>

	<p><i>Governors have monitored the maintenance and development of the school premises, and the Finance Committee have made decisions about how the school should use the budget. Early in the summer term the 2018/19 budget plan for the school was approved by Governors. We are pleased to report that the school is in a constrained but healthy position financially.</i></p> <p><i>A Health and Safety review has been carried out by a Governor. All Governors have carried out several monitoring visits to their linked class with a particular interest this year in standards of handwriting. Governors have worked closely with curriculum coordinators, monitoring standards in each subject.</i></p> <p><i>One of the roles for the Governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we have considered a number of key policies, including Safeguarding, Anti-Bullying, literacy, RE, Early Years, Music, PSHE, Art and Design, Electronic Devices Search and Deletion, School Password Security, Food, Packed Lunch as well all statutory finance and staffing policies and documents. Governors have been very involved in updating all policy and practice across school with respect to GDPR General Data Protection Regulation.</i></p> <p><i>Governors continue to have a very high profile in school, working closely with the classes they are matched to and in doing so further raising their profile in school with pupils. Governors support the school by volunteering to help at Breakfast Club, as a member of Friends of Laurel Avenue and by accompanying classes during educational visits.</i></p> <p><i>Governors have supported the building of an office hatch in the school entrance and new LED lighting across the whole of school and Community Centre.</i></p>
<p><i>Assessment of Impact</i></p>	<p><i>We continue to review our effectiveness against departmental guidance, and discuss the effectiveness of each meeting we hold. Ofsted judged Leadership and Management, including Governance, to be 'Good'.</i></p> <p><b><i>The governance of the school:</i></b></p>

	<p> <i>Governors have a strong commitment and visit regularly. They are enthusiastic champions of the school, while having an accurate picture of the strengths and weaknesses.</i></p> <p> <i>The local authority have observed all of the teaching during the year and provided a written report for governors. This, together with regular reports from the headteacher, ensures governors have a good knowledge of the quality of teaching.</i></p> <p> <i>Governors are able to challenge the work of the school because they have a good understanding of assessment information. They use all the performance information they have to make decisions about pay awards so that they are able to reward good teaching.</i></p> <p> <i>Governors manage the budget prudently, making sure designated funding benefits the pupils for whom it is intended. As a result, all pupils, regardless of their ability and means, make good progress.</i></p>
<p><i>Future plans for the Governing Body</i></p>	<p><i>We will be continuing with developing monitoring role of governors and their links with their own classes.</i></p> <p><i>As part of the improvements needed to be an outstanding school following Ofsted, we are also going to be working hard to ensure that all children have more opportunities to improve their work in mathematics or to use their skills in real-life situations and that they are always expected to use correct grammar and punctuation in their writing.</i></p> <p><i>The rolling programme of school refurbishment will continue as will the updating of IT hardware in order to equip our children with the technology for the Computing Curriculum.</i></p>
<p><i>Contact Details</i></p>	<p><i>The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Ann Elliott, c/o the school office or by sending an e mail to <a href="mailto:laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net">laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net</a></i></p> <p><i>Details of the full Governing Body are on the school website on <a href="http://www.laurelavenue.durham.sch.uk/">http://www.laurelavenue.durham.sch.uk/</a></i></p>

*Appendix 1: Laurel Avenue Community Primary School Governor Profiles  
and Attendance Record 2017- 2018*

<i>Governor Type Term</i>	<i>Employer and Nature of Employment</i>	<i>Business Interests and other Governor Role</i>	<i>Personal or Family Interest/ Loyalties</i>	<i>Committee Membership &amp; Special Interest</i>	<i>Attendance 2016 - 17</i>			
					<i>F</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Audrey Adams  Vice chair Co-opted  01/09/15 – 31/08/19</i>	<i>Retired Education Officer with particular interest in SEND</i>	<i>Director The Laurels Child Care</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Learning, Teaching &amp; Achievement  SEND, Inclusion More Able or Talented The Arts</i>	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	/	✓ ✓ ✓
<i>Wendy Bellamy  Co-opted  06/03/2017 – 05/03/21</i>	<i>Retired Primary School Teacher</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Learning, Teaching &amp; Achievement Finance and Premises (Chair)  Science Modern Foreign Languages</i>	✓ ✓ A	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	/
<i>Helen Blakey  Parent  24/08/15 – 23/08/19</i>	<i>Self- Employed Hand Crafted Gifts Business</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Learning, Teaching &amp; Achievement  Computing</i>	✓ ✓ ✓	A A ✓	/	/
<i>Katie Corrigan  Authority</i>	<i>Elected Durham County plus Belmont Parish Councillor</i>	<i>Governor – St Hild’s Church of England</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Community &amp; SMSC Finance and Premises</i>	✓ ✓ ✓	/	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓

26/07/17 – 16/07/21		Primary School		British Values				
Ellen Cottrell  Co-opted  06/06/16 – 05/06/20	Senior Residential Worker (Children's Services)	None	None	Community & SMSC  Safeguarding Online-Safety History/Geogr aphy	✓ A A	/	/	A ✓ A
Gaynor Davison  Head Teacher  01/09/15	Headteacher Laurel Avenue Community Primary School	Director The Laurels Child Care	Mother – Let's Get Cooking Coordinator	Learning, Teaching & Achievement Community & SMSC Finance and Premises	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
Nicola Dixon  Parent  13/03/17 – 12/03/21 Resigned 2017	Well-Being Mentor Gateshead College	None	None					
Ann Elliott  Chair Co-opted  15/05/17 – 05/06/21	Retired Secondary School Teacher	Director The Laurels Child Care	None	Learning, Teaching & Achievement Community & SMSC Finance and Premises  English, Communicat ion and Language Technology Looked After Children	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ A

<p><i>Claire Linfoot</i></p> <p><i>Co-opted</i></p> <p>17/02/17 – 16/02/21</p>	<p><i>Manager of Laurel Avenue Community Centre</i></p> <p><i>Lunchtime Assistant Laurel Avenue Community Primary</i></p>		<p><i>Father and Auntie - Lunchtime Assistants Laurel Avenue Community Primary</i></p> <p><i>Husband – Governor at Laurel Avenue Community Primary School</i></p>	<p><i>Community &amp; SMSC (Chair) Finance and Premises</i></p> <p><i>Early Years Community</i></p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	/	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>
<p><i>Steve Linfoot</i></p> <p><i>Parent</i></p>	<p><i>Health and Safety Consultancy Occupational Exposure Limited</i></p>	<i>None</i>	<p><i>Wife – Governor and Lunchtime Supervisor at Laurel Avenue Community Primary School</i></p>	<p><i>Learning, Teaching and Achievement Health and Safety History Geography</i></p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p><i>Opted on Summer Term</i></p> <p>✓</p>	/	/
<p><i>Helen Walters</i></p> <p><i>Staff</i></p> <p>13/02/15 – 12/02/19</p>	<p><i>Deputy Headteacher</i></p> <p><i>Laurel Avenue Community Primary</i></p>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<p><i>Learning, Teaching &amp; Achievement Community &amp; SMSC Finance and Premises</i></p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>