

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of
Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery
2020-2021**

“We are all stars: Ashleigh makes us shine”

In accordance with the Government’s requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery Governing Board 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 Board of Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery was reconstituted in 2014 and is now made up of two staff governors (including the Headteacher), two elected Parent Governors, one Local Authority Governor (currently vacant) and seven Co-opted governors (12 governors in total). Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Board and are people who, in the opinion of the governing board, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. On our Governing Board three of the Co-opted governors are parents, one is a staff member and the remaining three are members of the local community. Governors are required to adhere to a Code of Conduct and, to ensure transparency, declare any business interests. A list of governors and their business interests are shown on page 7.

The full Governing Board meets once each half-term and conducts all business of the governing board. We do not have committees but instead use Lead Governors if an issue needs to be reviewed in detail. Lead Governors report to the Governing Board and only have authority to make decisions if agreed in advance by the Governing Board (this excludes any statutory decisions which can only be decided by the full Governing Board). If and when required we may form a committee to consider pupil discipline and staffing matters. The Terms of Reference for the Governing Board and these committees are available on the school’s website.

Individual governors take responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the school to ensure that we meet statutory requirements (such as Safeguarding and provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs) and that we deliver against the areas we ourselves identify in our school improvement and development plan. Governors are required to complete monitoring reports which are

	<p>circulated to the Governing Board for consideration and action as required. See p6 for a list of monitoring roles.</p> <p>Given the covid pandemic, there have been no governor activities (including monitoring) taking place on site in line with the school's covid specific risk assessment. Moving forward into academic year 2021/2022, restrictions permit us to access the school again and monitoring in person will resume. One of the learning points from the covid pandemic restrictions is that sometimes monitoring can take place virtually but this should be complemented as appropriate with school site visits as being in the school gives governors a better feel for how things are.</p>
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<p>Attendance record of governors</p>	<p>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). See p8 for details of individual governors’ attendance at meetings.</p>
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<p>The work that we have done in the governing board</p>	<p>The Governing Board expects to have another busy year. Last year the Governing Board were concerned principally with assisting the school navigate through the covid pandemic and the appointment of the new Headteacher. Now that the new Headteacher has been appointed and due to start his second term (Autumn 2021-22) governors are eager to see the results from and support the implementation of the SIDP.</p> <p>In terms of school improvement the Governing Board has used its aims and values for the school (developed following consultation with parents and pupils), along with a review of pupil attainment and achievement data, to identify priority areas for our school improvement and development plan. These priorities ensure that we continue to provide excellent learning opportunities for our children to enable each of them to “shine”. These priorities have included:</p> <p>Pillar 1. A shared vision, values, culture and ethos, based on the highest expectations of all of the school community. After a highly effective transition from being an Infant and Nursery to becoming a full Primary School in 2018-19, the departure of the previous headteacher in 2020 and the need to navigate the covid crisis has made 2021 the year for the new SLT to lead a review of this area to ensure that APS&N can move forward as one. The last two years have seen the emergence of a variety of visions for the school which need to be shaped into one, unifying vision.</p> <p>Pillar 2. Inspirational leadership at all levels throughout the school. The deputy heads led the school through the pandemic as acting heads and have the experience, skills and knowledge to work highly effectively with the new headteacher to ensure that the school is ready to meet the next stage of its development with confidence, energy and optimism.</p> <p>Pillar 3. Exceptional teaching, learning and feedback to support the highest levels of attainment and achievement. Highly effective teaching and assessment at Ashleigh leads to high levels of attainment in the</p>
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core subjects of English and mathematics. This is because reflective teaching has been the subject of relentless focus.

Pillar 4. A relentless focus on engaging and involving students. Teachers are skilful at engaging students although the pandemic has disrupted many whole school approaches.

Pillar 5. Personalised and highly effective continuous professional development within a learning community. Teachers are committed to the idea of a culture of continuous improvement and seek out opportunities to develop their knowledge of effective teaching. This needs to be harnessed to help drive the school's strategy for improvement.

Pillar 6. A stimulating and inclusive environment and climate for learning. The school promotes a strong emphasis on nurture and emotional literacy but needs to develop this further at KS2 so that it can meet the needs of the older children and prepare them for the next stage of their education.

Pillar 7. A rich and creative curriculum, within and beyond the classroom, fully meeting the needs of individuals and groups of students. The expertise of the teaching staff, combined with well-chosen specialist support has led to successful subject 'transformations' which has begun the process of getting the Ashleigh curriculum in line with national best practice.

Pillar 8. High quality partnerships with parents and carers, the community, other schools and networks, locally, nationally and internationally. The school has an excellent reputation with parents and carers as well as professionals across Wymondham and across Norfolk. The school's links with tier 2 and tier 3 services have been expertly cultivated to ensure that vulnerable children receive timely and appropriate support.

Pillar 9. Robust and rigorous self-evaluation, data-analysis and collective review. The school is committed to being a beacon of excellence across the region and leaders do not flinch from identifying aspects of provision which need to be improved, using a range of external and internal sources to inform their judgements.

Pillar 10. Keeping children safe woven through every aspect of the school's work.

It is recognised by the Governing Board that there is more on the SIDP than would usually be expected. In some cases, these act as a reminder of what is happening generally within the school's focus but also reflect the next chapter for Ashleigh given the new Headteacher appointed.

Other duties of the Governing Board

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The Governing Board looks at the maintenance and development of the school premise and makes decisions about how the school should use the budget. Our Health and Safety Governor carries out termly checks of the premises with the school's site manager.

Governors also closely monitor safeguarding and we have a Nominated Governor for Safeguarding who gives a termly report to the governors about any safeguarding matters. As well as regular self-review, the Governing Board also sought an external perspective and commissioned a further external review of safeguarding in February 2018, which found provision to be Outstanding.

One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we have carefully reviewed a comprehensive range of policies, and ensured the school is meeting requirements. Operational updates of the school's policies is being carried out by the Office Manager with one governor's role to oversee.

The Governing Board annually fully reviews its effectiveness and skill set to identify areas where governance is strong and where improvement may be required. Governors have full access to training courses offered by Educator Solutions and the governing board sets aside time at every FGB meeting to share and review learning to ensure that we are providing the best leadership and governance that we can.

The Governing Board agrees a timetable of monitoring and evaluation, linked to the improvement priorities in the school development and improvement plan. All governors annually visit the school as part of "deep dive day" to review progress in delivering improvements and visit the school on a half termly/termly monitoring visit linked to their individual or committee responsibility.

In addition, the Governing Board uses external reviews to provide independent assessment of provision within the school. The findings of assessment visits have all commented on Outstanding provision, and any suggestions for improvement have been followed up and actioned as appropriate.

Minutes of Governing Board and Committee meetings are public documents – you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings, and Governors are currently reviewing the use of the school website to make them even more accessible.

<p>Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>The Governing Board have discussed the issue of becoming an Academy and have investigated options available (including inviting two local Academy Organisations to visit for Q&A. At this moment in time we are suggesting that the school does not pursue academisation, but will regularly review this.</p> <p>Governors will continue to support the transition with the new Headteacher and work closely with him on changing financial position of the school over the coming years, principally coming for the loss in the bulge year.</p> <p>The Governing Board are preparing for our next Ofsted inspection with a view to evidencing the strengths of our school. Ashleigh was last inspected by Ofsted in 2018 when we were judged to be outstanding. We believe we continue to be Outstanding but recognise that complacency has no place given the ever changing landscape for education settings.</p>
<p>How you can contact the governing board</p>	<p>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.</p>

Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery Governing Board

Governor Name	Category of Governor	Key Responsibilities/ Monitoring roles	Term of Office Expires
John McConnell	Headteacher		N/A
Danni Lacey	Co-opted Governor	Deputy/Assistant Headteacher	10 Nov 2023
Hayley Dowling	Staff Governor		24 Jul 2022
Sharon Hill	Co-opted Governor	Policies Health and Safety	3 rd Dec 2024
Jo Satterley	Parent Governor	Safeguarding Premises	20 Oct 2021
Rebecca Fletcher-Dungay	Parent Governor	Supporting premises	3 rd Dec 2024
Carolyn Ellis-Gage	Co-opted Governor	Vice Chair of Governors Vulnerable Groups LAAC, SEND, EAL, G&T, Pupil Premium)	17 Jul 2022
Sam Greenhalgh	Co-opted Governors	Chair of Governors	17 Jan 2023
David Woozley	Co-opted Governor	Website Curriculum – Maths and English	3 rd Dec 2024
Lis Jennings	Co-opted Governor	Mental Health	3 rd Dec 2024
Jennie Reevey	Co-opted Governor	Sports Premium Mental Health	18 Sep 2023
Gavin Tash	Co-opted Governor	Finance	6 Mar 2022

Register of Business Interests for School Governors

The register should set out the relevant business interests of governors and details of any other educational establishments they govern. The register should also set out any relationships between governors and members of the school staff including spouses, partners and relatives.

The following summarises the current register of interests held by Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery.

Governor	Date Register of Interest Last Updated and Signed	Business Interest Declared	Personal Interest Declared
Jo Satterley		None	None
Sam Greenhalgh (Chair)		None	None
John McConnell		None	None
Hayley Dowling		None	Works alongside all staff members. No relatives spouses in school.
Gavin Tash		Puddle duck books Bookselling – wife runs business	Wife is secretary to Ashleigh Friends and is a Scholastic Book Champion occasionally working with schools
Carolyn Ellis-Gage (Vice Chair)		None	None
Jennie Reavey		None	None
David Wozzley		Employee of GovernorHub (website used by the governing board)	None
Sharon Hill		None	None
Lis Jennings		None	None
Becs Dungay		None	None

Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery Governors' Attendance Record for 2020- 2021

Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery Attendance 2020-21

Y = Attended, N = Apologies Accepted, NA = Apologies not Accepted, NS = No Apologies sent

Governor	Governor Type	Full governing body					
		25.09.20	27.11.20	25.01.21	25.03.21	20.05.21	15.07.21
Johanne Bolver	Clerk	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Danni Lacey	Co-Opted	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Lucy Greenacre	Headteacher	Y	Y	N	-	-	-
John McConnell	Headteacher	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y
Joanna Satterley	Parent	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Gavin Tash	Co-Opted	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Carolyn Ellis-Gage	Co-opted	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Hayley Downing	Staff	Y	M	-	-	-	-
Lauren Ellero	Staff	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sam Greenhalgh	Co-opted	Y	-	N	Y	Y	Y
Jennie Reavey	Co-opted	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rosemary Philips	Co-opted	N	N	Y	Y	-	-
Lisa Bramford	Co-opted	N	Y	Y	-	-	-
Sharon Hill	Co-opted	-	Y	N	N	N	Y
Lis Jennings	Co-opted	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
David Woozley	Co-opted	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Becs Dungay	Co-opted	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

