



**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body
of Croft Church of England Primary School
July 2018**

The Governing Body have published this document to give parents an idea of the work that has been undertaken during this academic year. We hope you will find it informative.

School context.

Croft Church of England Primary School is a small rural primary school. In terms of North Yorkshire it is quite a large school, but the DfE recognises those with less than 200 pupils as small schools. Around 40% of our pupils come from outside our catchment area. The school became an Academy in January 2018 and is part of the Dales Academies Trust.

There are currently 105 pupils on roll + 17 Nursery pupils. Around 2% of pupils are in receipt of Free School Meals. There are no service children or pupils with English as an Additional Language. 8.6% of pupils are in receipt of pupil premium.

We have a lower than average percentage of pupils with Special Educational Needs overall but a higher than average number of pupils with high needs. We have a low percentage of ethnic minority pupils.

Our absence rate for 2017-18 was 3.67%, which is below national average. There were no exclusions.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Croft Church of England Primary School Governing Body are:

- 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**
- 2. Holding the Head teacher 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 Croft Church of England Primary School was reconstituted in September 2014 and is now made up of:

2 Foundation Governors, (Mrs V. Waugh and one vacancy), 4 Parent Governors (Mr P. Knapp, Mrs M. Patterson, Mrs D. Wilson-Bainbridge and Mrs Julia Clarke (Appointed October 2017)), 2 Co-opted Governors (Mr D. Blenkarn and Mrs A. Russell), 1 Local Authority Governor (Vacancy), 2 Associate Governors (Dr G. Sale and Mrs K. Jones), the Head Teacher (Mr S. Robson) and 1 Staff Governor (Mrs G. McManus).

Mr Paul Knapp will end his term of office at this summer. Parent Governor elections have been held to appoint his replacement and I am delighted to welcome Mrs Luci Jewkes to the Governing Body in September. Dr G. Sale resigned in March and Mrs K. Jones will end her Associate Governor role this summer. We thank all of them for their hard work, dedication and support during their time as Governors.

Experience in education, finance, personnel, management and health are valuable to the Governing Body, however, the key attributes that Governors need are time, enthusiasm and an interest in education.

We do not have committees with delegated functions; instead we have discussed all business as a full Governing Body. Meetings have taken place every half term. This has ensured that all governors are

fully informed and able to make a contribution to all aspects of Governance. The responsibilities of the Governing Body are now determined by the Scheme of Delegation of the MAT.

Attendance record of governors

A record is kept by the clerk to the governing body, of governors' attendance at meetings; details of attendance can be found at the end of this report.

Meetings need to be 'quorate' to ensure that decisions can be made. All meetings have been quorate this year.

The work we have done in the governing body meetings.

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

It has as always been an exceptionally busy year, focusing on school improvement.

We were delighted to receive the report from our SIAMS inspection in March which stated that the school was Outstanding in all areas. The findings in each area of the inspection are as follows:

"The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners"

"The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding"

"The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church academy is outstanding"

This confirmed our own judgements of the school. The full report can be accessed at http://croftprimaryschool.org/data/documents/Section-48-inspection-report-for-Croft-C-of-E-Primary-School-_1.pdf

As a Church of England school the Church and especially Christian values are fundamental to the ethos of the school and the education which pupils receive. We are extremely fortunate to have Mrs Lancaster, our R.E. and Collective Worship as subject leader and Foundation Governors, Mrs Waugh, Reverend Lane and Mrs Jones, Youth Leader to provide support and advice.

Academy conversion and formation of a Diocesan led Multi Academy Trust (MAT)

Last June we took the decision to become an Academy as part of the Dales Academies Trust. This came to fruition on 1st January 2018, after a full consultation process. As a result of this:

- During the past year school to school support and collaboration has strengthened amongst the schools in the MAT
- We now have the help and support of a Chief Executive Officer, Damian Chubb
- As a MAT we have been able to purchase Service Level Agreements which are tailored to the needs of our schools and at lower cost. This means we are able to have the support of the same person within the MAT which in turn aids continuity
- We have been able to buy goods and services collectively at a discount
- We have a School Improvement Adviser for the MAT who is a serving Ofsted inspector
- We are sharing expertise and standardising information and policies within the MAT where appropriate
- We have strengthened our links with the Diocese and benefit from the services of a Diocesan School Improvement Adviser who provides support, advice and professional development
- We have been able to arrange joint professional development with other schools

Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils

The Head Teacher has clear targets set for his performance in the Summer Term. These are set by three governors with the advice of an external Education Adviser who can look at the performance of the school objectively. The targets are drawn from the developments or improvements the school needs to achieve. The Head Teacher's progress towards those targets is monitored and formally evaluated throughout the year. The Head Teacher and all other teachers' pay is performance linked. One of our most important roles is to provide support and challenge for Mr Robson as he leads the school in moving forward.

As you are probably aware it is quite a number of years since the school was last inspected. We have been working hard to re-evaluate the school against these standards which were updated in September 2016. This is done in part by looking at school data and reports of external advisors. Key areas for improvement have been identified. Ambitious targets were set for pupils by the full Governing Body. The progress of all pupils has been monitored. Information gathered through parent and pupil questionnaires has also been reviewed by Governors and areas for development identified.

Governors have monitored areas identified in the School Development Plan and ensured that the needs of all children are being met and that the curriculum is broad, exciting, relevant and challenging. A new tracking system was introduced this year which enables staff and Governors to follow pupil progress more effectively.

British Values

Schools have a duty to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. As Governors we monitor how this is being implemented in school.

Governors regularly visit school. They have specific roles and responsibilities for example Special Educational Needs, Safeguarding or a specific curriculum area. They monitor that area and report back to the full Governing Body. This involves discussions with subject leaders, observation of lessons, book scrutinies, learning walks and conversations with pupils. They do not judge the quality of teaching but monitor the impact of teaching or strategies on pupil outcomes.

Pupil Premium

Governors are involved in preparing a Pupil Premium Strategy. They monitor how Pupil Premium is being spent and what impact it has on children's outcomes. This information is on our school website.

Sports Premium

The link Governor for PE reports to the full Governing Body on priorities for PE, how this grant is being spent and the impact it is having on pupils. The report is on the school website.

Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Financial management of the school is overseen by the full Governing Body. They receive monthly budget monitoring statements and updated financial forecasts for school from the Local Authority School Bursar who visits each month. Since January, the accounts have been managed centrally by the MAT. The school receives budget monitoring statement monthly and has regular visits from the financial management staff.

We plan expenditure to meet the needs identified in the School Development Plan. The full Governing Body provides an indicative school budget for the year which is approved by the Trust Board. Although school budgets have not been cut, they have not been increased for many years and as a consequence increasing costs have to be absorbed. This has been particularly difficult this year with significant

increases in non-teaching staff pay, national insurance and superannuation contributions in addition to inflationary increases. It is always our aim to achieve best value and we compare our school with similar schools to benchmark this.

The building is maintained to a high standard. We applied for grants to provide equipment to establish Forest Schools, a curriculum kitchen in the Out of School Club room, update computer equipment and improve the school library. The only successful bid was for Forest Schools and this is now being introduced across the school. We have managed to raise sufficient funds to update the school library and purchase some new books, thanks to the book fairs, the generosity of parents and the Dodgson Trust. Early Years has benefitted from some new equipment too. We are currently looking at ways to fund an upgrade in the laptops and server in school. Any ideas would be welcome.

The Health and Safety Governor ensures that all Health & Safety issues are addressed and that risk assessments are in place. The Safeguarding Governor reports to Governors on safeguarding matters including the prevention of radicalisation of pupils. Governors are responsible for reviewing and agreeing some policies in school in particular, Child Protection, Health & Safety, Special Educational Needs, Behaviour, Complaints and Pay Policies.

The County Catering Service provide nutritious school lunches. The quality of food is excellent which was reinforced by parents when they were invited into school this term to try school lunches. Governors eat school lunches on occasions too, not only to sample the quality but to chat to the children about school. A pre-order service was successfully introduced in September to ensure that every child gets their first choice of food each time. We are grateful to Mrs Breeze and Mrs Geldard who prepare our excellent meals.

Minutes of the Governing Body meetings are available on the school website once they have been agreed by the full Governing Body.

Governors' Development

Many changes happen in the course of a year in terms of educational development and practice. Governors keep on top of these changes by attending relevant training, local and regional conferences. Our training has included ASP and SIAMS. The Governing Board is a member of the National Governors Association. The Chair of Governors visits other schools and clusters for example the Swaledale Teaching Alliance. All Governors complete Child Protection training, Online Safety and Prevent (prevention of radicalisation) training.

Communication

The Governing Body is committed to including parents, staff and pupils and the local community in activities which affect the school. The Chair is often in school as are other governors. We are more than happy to chat to anyone and discuss any concerns.

There have been more information events for parents this year including Curriculum and SATs Information Evenings, Induction and Stay and Play in Early Years and a Stay and Read session in school. These sessions give parents more information about school, what their children are learning about and how to help them. We now hold termly drop in sessions after community Collective Worship each term and produce a termly newsletter.

Staffing

In a small school Governors assist with the appointment of staff. This year has seen some changes in staffing. We welcomed Miss Bleasby to Early Years in September and Mrs Carbert moved from Class 3 to Class 2. Mrs Lancaster returned part time to Class 3 following her maternity leave. Mrs McManus stayed in Class 4 until Easter when she left on maternity leave and Mr Williams was appointed to cover

her in Class 4. Mrs Richford joined us at February half term as part time teacher in Class 3. Specialist French teaching continued with the addition of a specialist Maths teacher for Year 6 pupils. Mrs Prudhoe left at Christmas and Mrs Dent retired at Easter after over 30 years of service in school. This summer Miss Lewis, Mrs Brown and Mr Witham are leaving as the pupils they support move to their new schools. Our thanks and best wishes go to them.

In September the staffing arrangements will remain the same until Mrs McManus returns from maternity leave in February. She will then join Mrs Lancaster in Class 3 part time.

School Year

Governors are justifiably proud of our school and recognise that we have a wonderful team of staff who embrace changes and work tirelessly to provide the best possible outcomes for the children in all aspects of life. These achievements are celebrated by everyone.

Congratulations to the children in Years 1, 2 and 6 who have recently completed their statutory assessments. Year 1 children sat their phonics assessment and have performed above 2017 average national levels of achievement.

Teacher assessments and tests at the end of Key Stage 1 in Reading, Writing, Grammar Punctuation and Spelling and Mathematics indicate that children performed well against national standards (2017) in all areas.

Our Year 6 pupils have performed extremely well in all areas. Reading outcomes are particularly good . Results have been communicated to individual parents.

Attendance is closely monitored by the Governing Body. It sets targets for it annually. This year it has been above the national average at 96.3%.

The school curriculum been reviewed and enhanced this year and this will continue. Pupil Voice in school has been improved through Pupil Leadership Teams, including the School Council. These groups of pupils focus on aspects of school life for example Health and Wellbeing. They research aspects of this and report directly to Governors.

You may have seen the WOW display in the school hall which celebrates special pieces of children's work and there is a writing journey on display showing development from Reception to Year 6.

Drama and music have always been strengths in school. This year, two incredible productions were staged at Christmas. Well done to all the children and everyone involved in the productions they were outstanding. There is an excellent take up of music lessons in school including guitar and piano. Children showcased their talents at the wonderful Strawberries and Dreams Concert and Croft's got talent! Our congratulations go to Max Ferguson who competed very successfully in Britain's Got Talent. We all wish him the very best for the future.

Children have used their Art and Design talents to provide items for sale at the very successful Enterprise Fairs which took place in the Autumn and Spring terms. Children not only created beautiful things to sell but also honed their business skills in calculating profits and selling goods. They have created some outstanding artwork some of which is displayed around school too.

School visits have included a 3 day residential visit to East Barnby for Year 5 and 6 pupils. Visits to Beamish Museum, The Nasir Mosque in Hartlepool, Arbeia Roman Fort, The Jewish Synagogue in Newcastle, Kirkleatham Hall, Nightingale Care Home in Richmond, The Gurdwara Temple and York Museum. These visits have given children new and practical learning experiences which enhanced the

curriculum taught in school.

Visitors to school have included the children's author and former Northern Echo Editor, Peter Baron, Rob Smith creator of Literacy Shed and Mr Schori, Swiss Assistant from Zurich who visited for 3 weeks this summer. These visitors have been inspirational to children.

Whole school workshops have included European Day of Languages, Chinese New Year celebrations, Islam, Judaism and Sikh workshops and Science Week, when all children worked together in mixed aged groups to take part in a variety of activities.

Our Year 6 pupils took part in and I am delighted to say, won, the Small Schools Cluster Debate held in Richmond. Well done to everyone.

Mrs Carbert has led P.E. this year. Well done to our sports' teams who have competed in a variety of different sports this year. The government sports grant has enabled us to be part of the Richmond cluster for Sports. This funding has enabled us to provide professional development for our staff, buy some new sports equipment, provide a variety of sports activities for all children and to join in additional inter- school sports competitions. A focus this year has been the introduction of more lunch time sports. This has been led by Mike Layfield, Matthew Brown from Richmond and Mrs Marksby and has been very successful. We are very grateful to Mr Robinson for running a lunchtime football club and Mrs Jewkes who has run lunchtime Netball. As a result more children have taken part in optional activities and the children have grown in confidence. A full report is on the school website.

The Out of School Club provides an excellent service for parents and children. Kerry and her assistants work extremely hard to provide a home from home with lots of fun activities.

The Friends of the School play a crucial part in school. They work tirelessly to raise much needed funds for equipment in school. As budgets become tighter the fund raising becomes increasingly important and we are extremely grateful for everyone's efforts. Please support them. Through funds raised at various events they have been able to provide a replacement for the old Smart Board in Class 4.

This year was shadowed by great sadness at Christmas time when we heard of the tragic accident which claimed the lives of Valentina and Antonella Percovich in Brazil. It was a truly awful time in our school community. Mr and Mrs Percovich and Pietro are always in our thoughts and prayers. A memorial seat and two trees are being planted in memory this summer.

It is impossible to mention everyone and everything that happens in school over the course of a year. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our exceptional, hardworking and dedicated staff; to the children for always trying their best and to you as parents and carers for your support.

Next year will be just as exciting and of course challenging in its way. It is a privilege to be a governor to be involved in such a lovely school community.

Finally,

Best wishes to those children leaving us this summer.

We look forward to seeing everyone else in September. Have a lovely summer.

Alison Russell

Alison Russell,
Chair of Governors

Strategic Planning for the future

The School Development Plan 17 -18 focussed on the following areas:

- **Distinctiveness as a Christian School:** To improve the quality and impact of collective worship and Christian Values on whole school community and develop links with other faiths and diverse communities
- **Teaching:** To improve provision and the quality of teaching to accelerate progress for more able pupils
- **Curriculum:** To develop a broad, balanced, exciting and challenging curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils and raise its profile amongst the school and community
- **Outcomes:** To ensure that reading and writing progress and attainment in all year groups is consistent and is in line or above national expectations.
- **Early Years Quality and Standards:** To improve the proportions of pupils who make more than expected progress
- **Governors:** To ensure that the Governing Body has the skills and information to fulfil its roles effectively

Governing Body attendance at meetings

Governor	Full Governing Body (6)
Alison Russell	6
Michelle Patterson	4
Paul Knapp	5
Denise Wilson- Bainbridge	4
Julia Clarke	5 (Appointed Oct 17)
Derek Blenkarn	5
Viv Waugh	5
Kath Jones	2 (Resigned June 18)
Simon Robson	6
Gemma McManus	3 (Maternity Leave April 18)
Georgie Sale	2 (Resigned March 18)

How to contact your governing body

Information about the school's governing body is available on the governors' page of the school's website croftprimaryschool.org.

E mail the Chair of Governors at:

CofG@croft.n-yorks.sch.uk

Or leave a message/ letter at the school office.