

Annual Governance Statement from the Governing Body of Melsonby Methodist Primary School July 2018

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the three core strategic functions of Melsonby Methodist 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

The Governing Body

The Governing Body of Melsonby Methodist Primary School is made up of:

2 Parent Governors, 2 Foundation Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor, 1 Teacher Governor,
2 Co-opted Governors.

Membership 2017 -2018

Governor	Category	Term of Office	Expiry Date
Katharine Millar	Parent	Sept 2016	Sept. 2020
Heather Harland	Parent	Sept. 2009	Sept. 2018
Malcolm Cundick	Foundation	Feb. 2015	Feb 2019
Sue Sleightholme	Foundation	Dec. 2017	Dec 2021
Stuart Priestley	Local Authority	July 2017	July 2021
Gail Smith	Teacher	Aug 2014	Aug 2018
Terry Sutton	Co-opted	Oct 2014	Oct 2018
Kat Vasby-Burnie	Co-opted	Nov 2016	July 2021

How to contact your Governors

You can see who the current governors are on the school website www.melsonby.n-yorks.sch.uk and if you wish to contact any one of them please ask for contact details at the school office.

Governing Body Meetings 2017 – 2018

2017 -2018 has been a very busy year for Melsonby Governors. In addition to the seven scheduled meetings –one Business, three Resources and three School Improvement focussed – governors

attended a number of meetings associated with investigation of the potential for federation with North and South Cowton Community Primary School. A Strategic Development Committee was convened, which met jointly with a similar committee of members of the North and South Cowton GB. Melsonby's full GB met with the full GB of North and South Cowton at the beginning of the process of investigation and at the end of the consultation period. Melsonby's SDC negotiated terms of a potential federation with North and South Cowton and organised a public consultation.

The outcome of this dialogue with North and South Cowton on a proposal to federate, following consultation, was that the two schools should continue the current arrangement of shared headship and collaboration until a review at the end of the 2018 to 2019 school year.

Committees were also convened to provide performance management of the Head Teacher and to appoint new staff.

The Chair of Governors met regularly, on average once per week, with the Head Teacher in school and was in contact via email and telephone more frequently. The content of such meetings and discussion and matters arising was passed on to other governors - either all GB members or those with responsibility for the subject or area in focus.

Minutes of Full GB meetings can be requested from the school office.

Record of Governors' Attendance at Full GB Meetings

A record is kept by the clerk to the Governors of attendance at meetings. This year attendance by governors was 87.5% and all absences were approved.

Meetings need to be quorate for decisions to be made. All meetings held over the past year have been quorate.

Governor Skills

A review of governor skills was undertaken early in the school year and general skills audits were completed by new governors; this revealed a good range of skills. The majority of governors have strong links with education and this is complimented by a good basis of financial knowledge – confirmed by a financial skills audit completed by governors with specific financial responsibilities.

This year we worked without finance or school improvement committees – full GB meetings had a resources or school improvement focus – and we believe this has given all governors a broader understanding of the operation of the school and the challenges faced.

Training Undertaken

In addition to attendance at School Improvement Network Meetings and Swaledale Alliance Meetings governor training was undertaken in Head Teacher Appraisal.

Governors in School

Each governor is linked to one or more specific subject areas or important aspects of school management and also has responsibilities relating to prioritised areas of the School Development Plan. In relation to this governors undertake Learning Walks where, individually or in pairs, they agree a focus, observe this chosen area, talk to the children, the teacher and curriculum leader and ask pertinent questions and formulate a report for fellow governors. Follow up discussion with the appropriate teacher and Head Teacher is included in the report. This year learning walks have been conducted in EYFS and SMSC. In addition governors conducted pupil conferencing to learn more about how children view their school.

Governors are regular visitors to school which means that they know their school well. Foundation Governors play a very important role in this respect, often leading collective worship. Their close contact ensures that they are able to oversee maintenance of the Methodist ethos and Christian values which are essential characteristics of the school.

Governors have attended whole school, celebration, Mothers' Day, end of term and leavers' assemblies as well as Christmas and Easter productions. Governors helped in school: one governor organised and ran a gardening event for the children, others transported pupils to and from events and attended and assisted on social and fundraising occasions.

Governors conducted their Annual Financial Control Audit and, working with the bursar, completed the Schools' Financial Value Standard.

Strategic Planning

We will continue to collaborate with local schools; during the year 2017 to 2018 we worked with Barton and Ravensworth C. of E. Primary Schools and have been formally head-sharing and closely collaborating with North and South Cowton Community Primary School.

We will continue to look for opportunities to collaborate or federate with schools with similar values and ethos.

Promotion of the school remains a high priority and we will continue to use social media and local and educational publications to market the school and keep the local community informed with regard to school activities and events. We will also investigate the possibility of closer links to local nurseries and other educational establishments, particularly those with knowledge and practical experience of the Forest School ethos, which is an area of teaching we would like to explore.

A detailed three year Vision for Melsonby School can be found in the Governors' section of the school website www.melsonby.n-yorks.sch.uk

This is an exciting time for our school and governors will continue to look for and investigate opportunities to take Melsonby Primary School forward for the benefit of children, staff and the whole community.

