



GEORGE TOMLINSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Governance Statement

<p>Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of George Tomlinson Primary School July 2016/17</p>	
<p>In accordance with the Government’s requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of George Tomlinson Primary School’s Governing Body are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; 2. Holding the Head of School/Executive Head 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. 	
<p>Governance arrangements</p>	<p>The Governing Body of George Tomlinson Primary School was re-constituted in May 2016 and is now made up of 1 staff governor, 2 elected Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 3 Co-opted governors and the Headteacher. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Body, have the skills and experience required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school and expertise to hold the headteacher and SLT to account. Most of all the governors either live or work in the community (or both). We are also very fortunate to have 2 National Leaders of Governance on our board; the Chair of Governors and the Vice Chair.</p> <p>The full Governing Body met three times each term and early in the summer term we convened a Resources sub-committee to consider financial and other resource aspects of the school in detail. The full governing board focuses on all other matters which include the curriculum and the quality of teaching and learning, safeguarding, HR and pay, health and safety and premises. Additional committees may be formed to consider complaints or grievances and exclusions if required</p>

	See page 5 for a list of Governors.
Attendance record of governors	Governors' attendance at meetings has been excellent and a meeting has never had to be cancelled because it was not "quorate" (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). See attached for details of individual governors' attendance at meetings.
The work that we have done on the governing body	<p>The Governing Body had a particularly busy year, focusing on school improvement, finance and safeguarding.</p> <p>The board spent time considering the introduction of a new curriculum to ensure provision is challenging as well as being broad and balanced. Governors discuss key data on pupil achievement and progress, so that we can be sure that the school is on track to fulfil its ambitious targets for all pupils; as you can see from the June 2017 SAT's results there has been a marked improvement. We also focused on our "vulnerable groups" of children and how the Pupil Premium Grant was being spent by the school and what impact this has had on their outcomes.</p> <p>We also looked at the maintenance and development of the school premises, and made decisions about how the school should use its budget. Ms Ellie Ross is our Health and Safety Governor and she carries out termly checks of the premises with the school's site manager.</p> <p>Governors monitored safeguarding rigorously by making regular visits and addressed the historic safeguarding issues at the school. We have a nominated governor for Safeguarding including Child Protection (Ms Strowbridge) assisted by Ms Barker and Ms Khalawan) who gave termly reports to the governors about any safeguarding matters (including the single central record). The Governors and School ensured that robust and rigorous safeguarding policies and procedures have been put in place, including an E-safety policy and IT lessons to teach children how to stay safe online.</p> <p>The staff were all familiarised with the new <i>Keeping children safe in education</i> (September 2016) and given child protection training. A safeguarding external audit was conducted in the school and governors welcomed its findings.</p> <p>The staff have been given Prevent awareness training as part of wider safeguarding training and the Chair of Governors and Vice-Chair has also completed Safeguarding and Prevent training.</p>

	<p>Early in the spring term, the Resources Committee scrutinised the 2017/18 budget plan for the school and the governing body ratified the budget at its next meeting.</p> <p>One of the roles for the governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies, and this year we have ratified a number of key policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Safeguarding policy · Sex and relationships policy · Scheme of Delegation · Statement of Internal Control · Authorised signatories · IT management procedures · Additional leave of absence policy · Debt Recovery Plan · Whistleblowing Policy · Staff Code of Conduct · SEND Budget Plan · Pay Policy · Governors’ Code of Conduct · Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure · Maternity Procedure · Shared Parental Leave Procedure · Organisational Change Policy · Probation Procedure · Data Protection Policy · Governors’ Allowances · Charging and Remissions Policy · Asset Management Plan 2016 – 2021 <p>We also approved a new Attendance Policy, as a result of legislation changes that no longer allow schools to authorise term time holidays. The Governing Body fully supports the systems that have been put in place to monitor and improve attendance.</p> <p>Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents – you can either find them on the Governors’ page of the school website or you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.</p>
<p>Summary and Future plans for the governors</p>	<p>George Tomlinson has gone through a period of turbulence since its last Ofsted inspection in 2012.</p> <p>The school struggled to appoint a substantive headteacher when the previous one left in July 2015. Executive headship was at first</p>

provided by a headteacher from another school in the borough on a three days a week basis. She decided that the school needed full-time leadership and so ended the arrangement. The Local Authority then procured Lime Academy Trust to offer leadership and school improvement support in March 2016 but this was wrongly perceived as a move towards becoming an academy and was strongly opposed by parents and the local community. This period of instability, along with poor teaching and learning, caused a decline in standards in 2015/2016 compared to previous years. There were also safeguarding concerns and staffing problems which were not adequately resolved. The school's previous governing body resigned in March 2016 and a new board was convened in May 2016. The arrangement with Lime Academy Trust was concluded at the end of the 2016 summer term. A substantive headteacher, Ms Verity Carter, was appointed by the Governing board and took up her post in September 2016.

The Governors and Ms Carter then went on to appoint an experienced Deputy Head who took up her post following October half-term; two Assistant Headteachers to lead on Early Years and Teaching & Learning.

During 2016-17, the governing board commissioned an external review of governance in accordance with good practice and to ensure that governance accountability has been quality assured. We were pleased to know that the governing board was graded outstanding.

Despite the period of turbulence during the 2015-2016 academic year, the school once again has stable and strong leadership that has the capacity and experience to take the school forward. The leadership of the school has high expectations of pupils and staff. The headteacher and her team lead by example in a relentless determination to improve the school.

The Governing Body is looking forward to seeing the children develop a love of reading now that we have such a wonderful and imaginative new library. Governors and school leaders are also working hard to ensure that we are all well prepared for our Ofsted inspection when it comes. We are very proud of our community school and we are committed to providing every child with an excellent start to their education and a lifetime of learning.

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

George Tomlinson Primary School Governing Body

Governor	Category	Term of office expiry date
Gillian Barker (Chair of Resources Committee)	Co-opted Governor	23/05/2020
Verity Carter (Head Teacher)	Staff Governor	23/09/2020
Maya Khalawan (Vice Chair)	Parent Governor	23/05/2020
Alun North	Co-Opted Governor	23/05/2020
Ellie Ross	Parent Governor	23/05/2020
Debbie Strowbridge (Chair)	LA Governor	23/05/2020
Andrew Warren	Co-opted Governor	23/05/2020
Sheila Wrack	Staff Governor	23/05/2021

Link Governors

Debbie Strowbridge	Safeguarding
Ellie Ross	Health and Safety
Gillian Barker	Safeguarding
Maya Khalawan	Health and Safety
Alun Warren	Literacy and Numeracy
Maya Khalawan	School website

George Tomlinson Primary School Governors' Attendance Record for 2016-2017

Governor	Full Governing Body	Resources Committee
Gillian Barker	100%	100%
Verity Carter	100%	100%
Maya Khalawan	100%	100%
Alun North	75%	n/a
Ellie Ross	100%	n/a
Debbie Strowbridge	100%	n/a
Andrew Warren	100%	n/a