



DOTHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
Governors' Annual Report to Parents
Autumn 2020

The school year 2019-2020 presented many challenges to us all at Dothill but there has also been lots to celebrate. The Governors would like to congratulate the whole school community for rising to the ever-changing situation of COVID-19 as it unfolded. The Annual Report is usually our opportunity to celebrate the end to a full and exciting year at Dothill Primary School with news of the highlights of all the activities that have taken place during the year. Despite the challenges this year there have also been many fun times too. In this report we would like to highlight the ways that all staff, pupils, and parents and carers have adapted to the constant change while still creating a safe, secure friendly and happy learning environment. Our Senior leaders have ensured there is an effective and consistent approach throughout the school and Governors have been active and fully involved in developments.

Therefore, in accordance with the requirements of the Government, the four core strategic functions of the Governing Body at Dothill remain as follows:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and the pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring the allocated budgets are well spent.
- Ensuring statutory duties are met.

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Everyone at Dothill works together to do their best to ensure that we are all trying to achieve our key **Vision and Values**

Our vision at Dothill is to provide, in partnership with the school community, a safe, happy and cooperative environment in which our unique pupils live our school values and face challenges with confidence, aspiring to excel.



At Dothill we value:

Honesty
Creativity
Cooperation
Kindness
Enthusiasm

Fairness
Responsibility
Confidence
Happiness
Respect

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

The experienced team of Governors at Dothill have continued to be in contact with senior leaders and other staff in school throughout the academic year. The impact of the senior leadership team clearly lead by the Headteacher has enabled the continuous and smooth running of the school.

The pupils made good progress throughout the Autumn and Spring Term 2020. Standards across the school are improving and are broadly in line with national expectations.

Due to the pandemic many pupils spent the final half of the year at home, with staff providing weekly home learning opportunities. The Headteacher and senior leaders provided a safe environment ensuring that school places were available for the families of key workers and vulnerable children. Staff played an important role in supporting and ensuring children's wellbeing.



The Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children were successfully welcomed back into school for the final part of the school year. The return of these year groups gave an opportunity to plan for the autumn term and try out a staggered start and end to the school day plus playtimes and the lunch break. A one-way system for arriving at school and leaving in the afternoon ensured that everyone could maintain a safe distance on the footpaths. The traffic flow

at peak periods became much smoother with less congestion. Altogether this system has been very successful, and we have received many positive comments.

Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring the allocated budgets are well spent.

Each year the full Governing Body scrutinises and ultimately approves the school budget which is then closely monitored throughout the year. Governors also monitor the use of other sources of funding which include the Pupil Premium Grant and Sports Funding and question the impact of all additional funds.

Due to the additional funding which has been made available by the government in the summer term, the governors are pleased to share with parents that several class sizes in 2020/21 have been reduced. Additional provision for supporting pupils in their learning and wellbeing has also been arranged. This maximises the benefit of the funding to all children.



Ensuring Statutory Duties are met

One of the most important roles that governors fulfil is always ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all the children who attend our school. This has been of a special importance during this year. The additional costs of keeping the school environment safe has had to be paid for by the school. This includes extra soap, paper towels and sanitiser.

There is a nominated governor for Safeguarding who liaises with senior staff regularly and reports to Governors meetings. Additionally the Headteacher reports to governors and answers questions arising from the report. The Safeguarding Squad continue to be an asset to the school. Ofsted report that the culture of Safeguarding is strong.

Safeguarding and the wellbeing of staff and pupils is a high priority and a regular item in staff meetings.

Future Plans for the Governors

The Governors are looking forward to continuing their close partnership with the Headteacher and Senior Leaders at Dothill. We will be monitoring the progress of the School Improvement Plan, ensuring that it adapts to meet the changing requirements as they evolve. Senior leaders and teachers are proactively developing the provision for remote learning. This will be offered for children isolating or in case of full or partial school closure. The added flexibility of this resource will also support homework and two way communication between school and families.

Dothill School is fortunate in having a group of dedicated governors who seek to be involved in the life and work of the school. We would like to express particular thanks to one of our long-serving governors who will be standing down after many years of outstanding voluntary contribution to the school and also to our Deputy Headteacher who retired in the summer following a dedicated, successful and long career at Dothill. We would also like to thank all the staff who have successfully met the challenges of this year.

As the next school year unfolds, the governors will continue to ensure that all our pupils benefit from the best possible education that the school can provide, reflecting our Vision and Values and celebrating the success of each individual child.