



ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-21

Governing Board effectiveness and impact.

At the beginning of the school year the Great Moor Infant School (GMIS) Governing Board (GB) and Headteacher (HT) created our annual School Improvement Plan (SIP). The SIP identifies the key areas on which the school and the GB wish to focus on and includes scheduled milestones to assist with ongoing key performance indicators (KPIs) and performance assessments. KPIs are used so that the GB can be assured that the actions taken within the SIP improve teaching throughout GMIS and learning outcomes for all our pupils.

What were the significant challenges for the governing body in 2020-21

1. COVID-19 national lockdowns and school closure generally
2. The expansion of virtual learning and home schooling
3. To provide a safe learning environment for all our children
4. Due to COVID-19-enforced school closure, statutory KPIs and performance assessments were not available during this period as a tool for governors
5. Continue to work effectively within a tight school budget

How were the challenges met?

1a. This has been an unprecedented year for everyone, and previously recognised working practices had to adapt further to the new situation. The GB worked closely with and fully supported our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to ensure the school consistently and fully conformed to the national lockdown rules and followed the COVID-19 national lockdown and Stockport LA guidance throughout. Regular Committee and full Governing Board (FGB) meetings continued as scheduled but changed from in-school attendance to being held on-line.

1b. Governors approved a Return Plan with a shared personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) focus across the whole school which placed reconnecting with our vision and values at the heart of the children's return.

2. COVID-19 has continued to transform education throughout the past academic year. The Return Plan centred on reconnecting the curriculum across the school. The Governors encouraged the adoption of virtual teaching programs and the development of new teaching skills to use them effectively. Funding was made available for online learning platforms to enhance/facilitate remote learning from our school budget. By lockdown 3 'Google classroom' was well established across the whole school. Pre-recorded, age appropriate lessons were made available, supported by live check-ins with each child throughout the week, focussing on our children's mental health and wellbeing. Governors recognised the challenges of

home schooling and that some of our children did not have access to the internet. We ensured teachers were closely monitoring these children and providing learning materials in appropriate formats.

3. The GB approved new safeguarding systems to ensure our vulnerable children, children from keyworker families and our staff had a safe learning/working environment in school. The Governors continues to develop a culture of robust support and has worked closely with our SLT to embed a culture of openness combined with appropriate vigour. The GB recognises the opportunities to share good practice and to take advantage of the support and resources available from our local authority professionals.

4. The GB has followed the local authority guidance on this matter and continue to monitor the impact lockdown had primarily on our children. In-school assessment of all our pupils continued in the key curriculum areas. Regular catch-up teaching has taken place for all children across the school together with additional identified/targeted academic provision from the 'catch-up funding'. This provision will continue to be put in place for children not achieving their expected level of development in year 2021–22.

5a. Despite continued additional COVID-related costs, responsive financial management by the school enabled GMIS to report a small in-year surplus for the 2020–21 financial year. COVID continues to exert financial pressures on the school, including increased supply staff costs, new IT systems to support remote learning, cleaning & PPE costs. The school is forecasting an appropriate in-year surplus for 2021–22. This will see the school continue to have the flexibility to respond to future challenges and to further enhance its provision.

5b The Finance Committee (**FC**) has supported the School Business Manager and HT to monitor the budget closely during this challenging year. This SLT have worked very effectively to minimise costs and actively manage the budget. This has resulted in the school finishing the year on-budget, which is a commendable achievement.

5c. The FC also monitored major capital works and minor projects to maintain premises and improve facilities.

The GB recognises that to effectively fulfil its role, it must ensure that the board encompasses a broad range of skills, knowledge and experience to support GMIS for both the present and future academic years. During the last year two new parent governors were appointed onto the GB. Their skills and experience will add an additional dimension and depth to the board and complements our existing strengths.

Governors are continually encouraged to further develop and broaden their skills by attending governor training courses, which have continued online and virtually throughout the pandemic. GMIS GB is a member of the National Governors' Association and uses this and other relevant information channels to ensure it remains abreast and up to date on relevant developments in the education sector.

How have these achievements improved areas of school life (impact)?

- Individual pupil performance assessments by our teachers has highlighted and measured the impact of the pandemic on their education. Appropriate provision for catch-up has been put in place and will continue next year
- The decision to adopt pre-recorded virtual learning for our children has resulted in a higher volume of engagement and positive feedback from both our learners and parents
- The GB has been supportive of the SLT throughout this period. The mental wellbeing of all our teachers, staff and children has been at the forefront of our decision making process

The GB will continue to develop and work towards the longer-term planning and execution of school strategy; to closely monitor financial status, progress against the school plan and to continue working closely with the HT, SLT, staff, and carer communities to deliver the best outcomes for our pupils.