

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Rosemary Lane Nursery School 2018/19

Our Nursery School Vision

At Rosemary Lane Nursery, we strive to create a happy atmosphere, where learning for all children is fun. Children are challenged to reach their full potential by developing their creative thinking and being encouraged to follow their own interests and enthusiasms; alongside informed, caring staff, who work in partnership with parents, encouraging them to take an active part in their child's learning. In an imaginative and holistic environment, children become independent, confident, caring and responsible learners, who are prepared and motivated to face future challenges. Each child's individual needs are met, in an atmosphere that celebrates diversity; where everyone is included and where everyone matters.



The Governing Body of Rosemary Lane Nursery School has a strong focus on its three core strategic functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

<p>Governance arrangements</p>	<p>In line with the government guidance the Governing Body of Rosemary Lane Nursery School was reconstituted in November 2018.</p> <p>It is made up of 10 governors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Local Authority Governor • 4 Co-opted Governors (1 vacancy) • 3 parent Governors • 1 staff Governor and the Headteacher <p>The full governing body meets once a term.</p> <p>We also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in more detail. At Rosemary Lane Nursery we have a Finance Premises and Grounds committee which looks closely at the budget and how we deploy finances across the school for all children. The finance committee consider the upkeep of the building and ensure Early Years Pupil Premium funding and Disability Access Funding is being used to its best advantage. We have a Curriculum committee who consider how the Nursery best deliver the Early Years curriculum to children 2, 3 and 4 years old. This committee focus upon teaching, learning, policies and assessment in the nursery.</p>
<p>Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body (2017/2018)</p>	<p>The governing body of Rosemary Lane Nursery School are very committed and take a great deal of pride in their role. There has been a huge shift in representation on the governing body, there has been some very long standing Governors leave due to changing dynamics in the governing body which has resulted in the appointment of new Governors through 2018. The appointment of these new Governors has seen an injection of new skills sets which has in turn, developed the skills of the governing body and improved the overall capabilities of the Governors; It has also enabled Governors to be inward looking, embrace change and look effectively at their roles, impact and development moving forward.</p> <p>Governors have a clear understanding of Early Years Education and they are able to hold the Headteacher and Senior Leaders to account. Governors continue to work very closely with the Headteacher and Nursery staff. They are passionate about delivering high quality experiences for all our children and supporting parents and the wider community. Governors take an active role visiting Nursery regularly to ensure the provision on offer is of a very high standard and that children's behaviour for learning is the best it can be.</p>

	<p>The governing body have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embraced change within the governing body, with shifting membership, appointment of Chairs and strengthened roles and responsibilities with all Governors. • Improved structure and governance within the governing body (implementation of Governor File). • Implemented and delivered a full day offer for 3-4yr old children who are in receipt of 30 hours. • Implemented, developed and delivered a lunchtime offer for both 15 and 30 hour children. • Considered and explored new transitional arrangements for all our Nursery children;- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - moving from 2yrs up to 3-4yrs within Nursery School environment, - strengthened relationships with Primary schools to assist children progressing into them. • Developed the nursery offer to support more choice and extended hours. • Managed a large staff cohort to meet the needs of the Nursery Offer in both 2yr & 3-4yr olds. • Managed a challenging budget following implementation of 30 hour offer. • Supported the offer for 2yr olds and the costs and staffing associated with this. • Ensured Disability Access Funding and Early Years Pupil Premium funding support and extend the needs of the children in receipt of them. • Addressed building repair and maintenance. • Continued to improve safeguarding practices. • Continued to supported the increasing role of developing outstanding Early Year Practice across Durham Schools and beyond • Worked hand in hand with our nursery parents and wider community to provide services to support their needs
<p>Assessment of Impact (2017/2018)</p>	<p>The Governing Body has had to embrace change with the departure of long standing Governors and seen an injection of new skills sets with the appointment of new Governors through 2018(still have one vacancy). This has developed and enhanced the skills of the governing body and improved the overall capabilities of the Governors. A full skills audit has been completed to identify any key areas for development, both holistically and individually. Governors have taken on specific link roles within the Nursery and embarked on upskilling their knowledge to enable them to fulfil these roles more effectively. The compilation of individual Governor files with relevant documentation (code of conduct, terms of reference, etc.) has been completed allowing for Governors to have a reference, information on roles and space to document individual training, etc. has been circulated. Governor induction has been strengthened.</p>

Whilst the governing body has strengthened significantly through 2018, moving forward, the need to embed more monitoring in school is desired and training in monitoring will be undertaken by all governors and a monitoring timetable will be introduced.

The Nursery School continues to grow and develop in line with the needs of our children and families. We have worked hard to develop and deliver the full day offer for 3-4 year old children who are in receipt of 30 hours. Governor's have monitored the impact of new routines with a particular focus upon safeguarding of children during transition times. A new security door has been installed to support new way of working.

The introduction of lunch as part of the nursery day, for 30hour children, has provided further opportunities to support and develop social interaction skills. Supporting the number of children accessing lunch has been carefully managed to ensure the experience continues to be of high quality for all children.

Following the development of the early breakfast and drop off into our morning services and afterschool club to extend to 30 hour day further for working parents, a further lunchtime offer has been developed and this is offered to 15 hour children. This lunchtime offer has formed part of our consideration and improved development for progression to support children with their transition into 3-4yrs and onto Primary Schools; where stronger relationships have been built through co-working and visits.

The governing body recognise the value of staff to work with the children. Governors, through careful management of the budget, continue to place an emphasis on providing additional staff to be able to really support and extend the children's learning. The governing body recognise the changes within the school staffing structure.

Staff training and development has been prioritised to ensure all new staff are fully up to date with current practice and to embrace new skills for all. New induction processes have been implemented and this has been closely monitored by governors to ensure a culture of peer support and learning is embraced.

Parents are supported regularly with the chair informally chatting to them and meeting with parents to give them dedicated time to speak impartially about the school. These discussions have led to reflection and changes within the school.

Governors recognise the importance of creating a stimulating and exciting environment for all children, to foster their interests and develop their love of learning. The governing body ensure the Nursery remains well equip by

	<p>providing the children with quality open-ended resources; replacing older, tired equipment and purchasing new. ICT equipment has been updated to provide challenge and support the development of new modern skills.</p> <p>Governors have ensured monies spent on new activity packs and managing the library have led to development not just for those entitled to EYPP but for all children.</p>
<p>Future plans for the Governing Body (2018/2019)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop the future workforce of the Nursery. • Continue to refine and develop our school 30 hour offer to support the children and parents in our community. • Develop policy documents relating to 30hour offer – admissions, lunches, sleeping etc. • Continue to monitor uptake of extended day (breakfast, afterschool, lunchtime) and develop these services. • AHT to lead training on Letters and sounds/phonics. Supporting practitioners understanding of how children learn to hear sounds and how this builds to linking sound to letters and building simple cvc words. • HT to lead training on Marvellous Maths. Providing practitioners with understanding of the statements in the curriculum and their understanding on what theses look like in practice in nursery. Developing ideas around resources and how to uses these in creative ways with the children to challenge their mathematical thinking. • Sensory smart training – to support and develop the skill of practitioners in understanding the different strategies to support children who are experience any sensory sensitivities. • To improve the snack menu served to children and provide more information to parents around health eating and healthy lifestyles. Develop displays for parent with information leaflets. Work with children and parents on sugar smart awareness promoting teeth brushing and good oral hygiene. • Governing body to embed and develop, the focus will be upon developing robust and effective systems to monitor the Nursery school improvements throughout the coming academic year. Link governor roles will be strengthened through more training and school visits planned more thoroughly to make the most impact. Training will continue to be a key determinant to develop the skills and understanding for the role. All governors will be encouraged to attend at least one training course per academic year. • Implement and review the use of Target Tracker, the new assessment tracking tool.

Contact Details

The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Angela Surtees, c/o the school office on 0191 527 1168.

Details of the full Governing Body are on the school website.