

## Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Rosemary Lane Nursery School 2017/18

### 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.

### **Governance arrangements**

In line with the government guidance the Governing Body of Rosemary Lane Nursery School was reconstituted in June 2015.

It is made up of 12 governors:

- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 5 Co-opted Governors (2 vacancies)
- 4 parent Governors (2 vacancies)
- 1 staff Governor and the Headteacher

The full governing body meets once a term.

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

	<p>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><b>Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body</b></p>	<p>The governing body of Rosemary Lane Nursery School are very dedicated and take a great deal of pride in their role. The appointment of a new LA Governors has developed the skills and improved the overall capabilities of the governors. Through training specific to our Nursery School, governors have grown in knowledge and are able to take a much more insightful view on how to lead the school from a strategic view.</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 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. The Chair of Governors meets regularly with staff and parents to discuss ways of improving our school to make it even better than it already is.</p> <p>The governing body have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed the nursery offer to support more choice and extended hours.</li> <li>• Managed a reducing budget (due to funding on pupil numbers)</li> <li>• Supported a growing offer for 2 year olds and the costs and staffing associated with this</li> <li>• Advertised and publicising the nursery school to help increase numbers</li> <li>• Ensured Disability Access Funding and Early Years Pupil Premium funding support and extend the needs of the children in receipt of them</li> <li>• Addressed building repair and maintenance</li> <li>• Improved safeguarding through building amendments</li> <li>• Supported the increasing role of developing</li> </ul>

	<p>outstanding Early Year Practice across Durham Schools and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managed and developed the role of Outreach Nursery Support across our Community of Learning</li> <li>• Worked hand in hand with our nursery parents and wider community to provide services to support their needs (developing the role of family support worker)</li> <li>• Encouraged the introduction of new technology into the nursery to support the children’s learning</li> </ul>
<p><b>Assessment of Impact</b></p>	<p>The Nursery School continues to grow and develop in line with the needs of our children and families. We have developed a full day offer for 3-4 year old children who are in receipt of 30 hours. We have built a new early breakfast and drop off into our morning services and created an afterschool club to extend to 30 hour day further for working parents.</p> <p>Staffing and routines support the children in the nursery. 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.</p> <p>The governing body recognise the changes within the school staffing structure. Chair’s chat groups have been initiated with staff to support them in managing this change. 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.</p>
<p><b>Future plans for the Governing Body</b></p>	<p>LA governor to map out a training plan to develop skills within the governing body. Nursery School Governor Network and LA governance training will support and work alongside this to develop and extend governors role.</p> <p>New governor week to begin in autumn term for governors to make time to visit the school to fulfil their role.</p> <p>Future foci</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing the effectiveness of the governing body through improving the skills set of the group</li> <li>• Governors given link governor status to specific areas of the nursery to ensure robust monitoring</li> <li>• Campaigning for the future sustainability of the Nursery School with changes proposed to EY funding arrangements</li> </ul>

<b>Contact Details</b>	<p>The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors, Mrs Mavis Thornhill, c/o the school office.</p> <p>Details of the full Governing Body are on the school website.</p>