



# Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School and Nursery

## Governor's Annual Report to Parents and Carers

### Autumn 2022



“Support for pupils’ personal development and welfare is a strength of the school. Leaders’ vision for every pupil to have the very best care shines through.” OFSTED, March 2019

The Governing Body at Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School and Nursery continue to have an effective team with a variety of skills and experience which support our school community. Our Governing Body has grown, widening the skills and experience available to the school, and ensuring an in-depth understanding of the school’s work and performance. Our Governing Body hold a wide range of responsibilities for the benefit of our children, parents/carers, staff and the wider community.

Our Governors are robust and rigorous in their role as a ‘critical friend’ and regularly visit the school and nursery to talk with children and teachers, as well as look at the learning environments, books and journals. For example, October 14th, 2021, Governors met with pupils to talk with them about their learning environments and to observe the learning taking place. They also conduct learning walks throughout school and nursery looking for evidence of the vision statement in action.

Our March 2019 Ofsted inspection recognised the ‘good’ provision in our school and the outstanding provision within our nursery and Early Years. Governors feel that this judgement is very well deserved and acknowledges the hard work and commitment of pupils, teachers, staff and parents/carers in helping the school to achieve this. We are confident that the school continues to operate at this high level as Governors frequently monitor standards, curriculum, behaviour and well-being. Several independent educational consultants have also verified our findings.

Curriculum progression routes are well defined for all subjects. Staff have been fully involved in the planning process and this has ensured that they have good subject knowledge for the lessons they teach, and they are also aware how the learning fits with prior and future learning. A particularly strong feature of the curriculum offer is the logical sequencing of lessons and the development of vocabulary throughout each subject.

On our school website there is a 'Governance' section. There are short pen portraits for each member of the Governing Body. If you wish to contact our Governors, please inform the school office on 01952 327820.

## What have been our successes this year?

### Quality of Physical Education

We have had many sporting successes this year and have entered many sporting competitions through TWSSP. Governors are always proud of our sporting achievements and equally proud of the feedback we regularly receive about good sportsmanship being displayed. The SAF children are always fantastic at external competitions; constantly demonstrating second to none sportsmanship and behaviour. We just need to win a few more medals!



Our longstanding PE teacher Damien Stevens moved on to ventures new, however we still have Dion Graham who is going to continue to further develop the excellent PE provision at Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School.

We continue as a Gold school for Sport which shows our commitment to entering competitions and encouraging our children to participate.



## Cultural Capital

This year, the school have placed a huge emphasis on looking at the Personal Development of children and what they have been missing over the last two years. A comprehensive plan was put into place and the SLT and teachers have risen to the challenge. Enrichment afternoons take place on a Wednesday afternoon where children from Year 2 to Year 6 come off academic timetable and are planned into enrichment activities / clubs. Our school had a very low uptake to clubs and children's resilience and attendance always dipped. A plan was put in place and these children now attend a range of wonderful activities e.g. gardening, cooking, baking, crafts, girl's football, archery, debating, origami, BSL to name a few. This has been such a huge success that it is already planned in for next year.

## School Experiences

Our Year 5 children visited Arthog this year. This is very much a place where children learn not only about the tasks, they are faced with e.g. gorge walking and canoeing, but also develop skills around teamwork and resilience. Governors are happy to learn that the school has fully embraced school visits and experiences for our children with a visit to France planned for March 2023.

## Our Amazing Garden Spaces and Outdoor Learning



Our allotment

During Lockdown 1, a lot of time and money was invested into our school grounds and in particular our gardens. Mr Ratcliffe and Mrs Moore have overhauled our green space so that the children now have access to The Hazels, Outdoor learning for KS2, allotment, shedquarters and much more. We even have a solar powered irrigation system and a polly tunnel. This provision has gone from strength to strength thanks to the dedication of the team.

We have extended our outdoor learning provision and all children will access this from September 2022.

Building experiences and knowledge by immersing children in the world around them.

## Forest School



We have continued to support many charities over the year. The Macmillan Coffee morning was a huge hit, British Legion Poppy Appeal, Children in Need and collecting for Telford Crisis Support, Dementia UK. Our children and families have continued to have an impact in raising money for charities locally, nationally and internationally.

The Breakfast Club and After School Club lead has continued to work tirelessly in further developing our provision following consultation with parents/carers and children. Monitoring the provision through talking to pupils, parents/carers and staff reassured Governors that our offer continues to provide good value for money for our community.

### **How did the governors help us to achieve this?**

There is a clear vision statement which children, parents/carers, school staff and Governors contributed to, against which all targets and actions are assessed. Throughout the year, the Governors have visited the school to see this vision in practice and have fed back on their observations. The children's safety, welfare and learning are at the forefront of all our decision making.

Our 2021-2022 Vision Statement and Action Plan can be found on the school's website. The Governing Body monitored school improvement through regular visits into school with meetings with school leaders, effective training, scrutiny of documentation, rigorous appraisal systems, observations, and interviews with staff and children.

The Governors have worked in 4 main ways to achieve these successes.

- Setting the vision for the school and strategic direction of the school.

This year, Governors have again established clear action plans, targets and staff management procedures so that staff aim high for children to achieve their very best. The Governors have worked with the staff to develop the School Development and Raising Attainment Plan, which they review each term. Governors used a range of data and feedback from monitoring to identify the school's strengths and areas for development. Governors, throughout the year, have attended training courses to improve their skills in order to support the development of the school and ensure that we fulfil our role effectively e.g. Safer Recruitment and Raising Awareness.

- Holding the Head Teacher to account

School leadership has continued to be strong. Governors are fully aware of what the school does well. They engage with senior leaders in setting the vision for the school and subsequent priorities to work on. Throughout the year, Governors requested data regarding attainment and progress at committee meetings and Full Governing Body meetings and questioned the impact of decisions taken. During the year, we have regularly monitored the teaching and learning in school through lesson observations, pupil book scrutiny and consultations with pupils about their learning. The Head Teacher has written termly reports to the Governing Body, which identified attainment and achievement of pupils, quality of teaching, attendance reports and the curriculum offer.

- Ensuring financial resources are well spent

The Finance Committee meet every half-term where we monitored the school budget and ensured that spending was in line with the 'best value' ethos. The Committee identified areas for spending linked to the priorities on the School Development Plan and any other 'emergency' spending. The Committee meets regularly with our Local Authority Finance Officer and closed

the healthy budget for 2021-2022 and set the budget for 2022-2023 in line with our identified priorities.

The Schools' Financial Value Standard (SFVS) ensures that our budget is spent wisely and properly, allowing school to optimise resources, and so raise standards and attainment of all our pupils for 2021-2022.

Governors have been trained to ensure that the Pupil Premium Funding has been directed to the targeted children and we have developed and evaluated an action plan for 2021-2022 and identified priorities for 2022-2023 (see school website). In addition, Governors have monitored the additional sports funding and met with the PE team to discuss priorities.

Audited School Funds have been presented at the Full Governing Body meeting on an annual basis.

- Ensuring statutory duties are met and priorities approved

The Chair of Governors has met on a regular basis with the Head Teacher and the School Business Manager to ensure all statutory policies, procedures and information are up-to-date and published on the school website. We have carried out a website audit to ensure it is all compliant. Governors met at committee meetings to ensure statutory policies and procedures were fully in place.

Governors continue to give regard to the statutory guidance on 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021'. All Governors have received Prevent training linked to Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation. Throughout the year, the school regularly held fire practices and health and safety audits which Governors from the Health and Safety Committee attended.

Some of the policies agreed in the last academic year:

Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

Health & Safety Policy

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Absence Management Policy

Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy

Capability Policy

Code of Conduct Policy

Attendance Policy

Pay Policy

Complaints Policy

### **On-going and Future Areas of Involvement**

Governors will be continuing to listen to the views of parents/carers and children through the delivery and analysis of the parent and pupil surveys. Governors are integral in the school's monitoring and evaluation cycle and will continue to offer challenge and support in their role as a 'critical friend'. We are fully aware of the development points listed in our School Development and Raising Attainment Plan (September 2022) and in the 2019 Ofsted report. We will be continuing to monitor progress in achieving success in all areas to maintain our 'good' judgement and provision.

We have a strong culture of reflection and self-evaluation. We value the views of parents/carers, children and all other stakeholders. The Governing Body, Head Teacher, Senior Management Team and indeed all members of staff fully understand the need not to be complacent and strive for further success for the school and nursery.