

## Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Howlatch Lane Primary School September 2025

### School Vision/Mission Statement

Our vision of 'Creating Futures Together' is to ensure that each and every child has the opportunity to thrive and achieve their potential at Howlatch through a combination of quality first teaching, accurate assessment, a creative curriculum and opportunities to build confidence through participation in sport and creative arts. This is underpinned by our SHINE values 'Support Honesty Independence Nurturing Enjoyment' where we develop our children socially and morally by instilling a behaviour culture of 'Be ready, be respectful, be safe'.

The Governing Body of Howlatch Lane Primary School has a strong focus on its 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.
4. Ensure that other key players with a stake in the organisation have their voices heard.

#### **Governance arrangements**

The Governing Body of Howlatch Lane Primary School was re-constituted in November 2020. The Governing Body is composed of 12 governors: the Headteacher, 3 Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor, 1 Staff Governor and 6 Co-opted Governors. The school business manager is an associate member to the Governing Body. The full Governing Body meets once each term, and we also have a number of committees to consider different aspects of the school in detail. At Howlatch we have a Finance and Premises Committee which focuses on finance and the school environment; a Curriculum and Standards Committee which considers the curriculum, pupil achievement and teaching standards; a Pupil Wellbeing Committee which considers safeguarding of pupils and staff plus welfare of pupils and a Pay Review and Performance Committee which considers staff performance over the year. All of these committees meet regularly. Other committees will meet as required. For a full list of committees see the school website.

#### **Attendance record of governors**

Most governors have excellent attendance at meetings.

#### **Key Issues faced**

In September 2024 Ofsted judged the school as good in the

**and addressed by  
the Governing  
Body**

following areas Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management and Early Years provision. With a judgment of Requires improvement for Quality of education. The report highlighted the excellent work done by the school over recent years following the appointment of a new leadership team and praised them for the work they have done in making positive impactful change within the school.

The Ofsted inspection confirmed what the school leadership team, including Governors, were already aware of and actively working on at pace to improve.

SEND provision in school is constantly being looked at as a matter of priority. The school is working to ensure every child with SEN has the correct support in place to ensure they can access an aspirational curriculum and have the tools they need to succeed. Governors are constantly updated on the progress of this and have opportunities to monitor and challenge this area of focus on a regular basis.

Pupil achievement is another key area of focus for Governors at Howletch Lane. Following a period of decline in achievement for pupils, Governors are keen to ensure the correct support and structure is in place to see pupils reach their full potential. The School have made progress in this area, having implemented a new curriculum for foundations subjects, as well as working with external agencies to ensure pupils are receiving the best possible opportunities in Maths, Phonics and English.

Identifying and addressing areas of gaps in pupil's knowledge to ensure they are able to access the next step in their learning journey is also a focus for Governors. We are able to challenge school leaders on this during monitoring, as a result of the changes made we are able to see that the school is making fantastic progress in this area.

Safeguarding is always a priority for the Governing Board at Howletch Lane. The school has a number of vulnerable pupils and families that attend, and it is one of our main focuses to Ensure all children have a safe environment in which to come Into school. The schools' ethos on safeguarding is strong, and every possible measure is taken to ensure our pupils and families are safe.

The school is continuing to work hard to maintain an ageing building and ensure it is fit for purpose, however this is a struggle due to the astronomical costs involved in bringing the building up to modern standards. There has been a lot of work undertaken recently, replacing many of the windows as well as

	<p>some of the cladding on the extreme of the building, however there is still much more work to be done. Where funds allow, the school are also aiming to improve the interior to allow the pupils the best possible learning environment.</p>
<b>Assessment of Impact</b>	<p>Governors continue to focus on improving outcomes for all children and narrowing gaps between pupil premium and non-pupil premium children and between genders in all year groups.</p> <p>Throughout the year staff maintained close tracking of pupil progress, this was monitored by middle and senior leaders. Staff training, targeted interventions, high aspirations, and quality first teaching contributed to furthering and accelerating pupil progress.</p> <p>Within the curriculum, there is a responsibility to develop children academically but also to develop them spiritually, morally, socially, and culturally (SMSC). Personal development and wellbeing are strengths of the school which were acknowledged by Ofsted. Pupils have many opportunities to develop in terms of music, sport and teamworking.</p> <p>Children report that they enjoy school and that they feel safe.</p> <p>Parents and carers support their children and the school.</p> <p>Safeguarding in the school is sound with rigorous procedures in place.</p> <p>Governors evidence this from monitoring sessions with staff and discussions with children.</p>
<b>Future plans for the Governing Body</b>	<p>Governors will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold leaders to account to ensure that all pupils are being engaged, supported and making progress.</li> <li>• Oversee the financial situation within the school, ensuring that resources are being managed in line with the schools priorities.</li> <li>• Monitor attendance and review strategies including safeguarding of children and staff.</li> <li>• Ensure vulnerable children with those with SEN receive the same opportunities as their peers.</li> <li>• Make well considered decisions regarding expenditure.</li> <li>• To develop the Governing Body's own self-evaluation</li> </ul>

	<p>skills to enable the GB to have an accurate view of the impact of its work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Local Authority to utilise their skills and advice.</li> <li>• Request a review of the effectiveness of the governing body.</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 Sharon Lawson c/o the school office.</p> <p>Details of the full Governing Body are on the school website.</p>