

**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of
Aclet Close Nursery School 2015**

School Vision/Mission Statement

The Governing Body of Aclet Close 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

The Governing Body of Aclet Close Nursery School consists of the following members; The Head Teacher, 1 Local Authority Governor, 3 co-opted Governors, 1 staff Governor and 2 parent Governors and are people who have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

Co-opted Governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the Governing Body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

The Full Governing Body meets once each term and we also have committees who meet to consider different aspects of the school in detail. We also have committees to deal with Pay Review, Personnel and Safeguarding issues.

Attendance record of governors

Most Governors have excellent attendance at meetings and we have never cancelled a meeting because it was not 'quorate' (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).

Key Issues faced and addressed by the Governing Body and resulting impact of governance

The Governing Body has had a busy year, focussing on continuous school improvement.

The Finances Committee looks at the maintenance and development of the school premises and makes decisions about how the school should use its budget. The Governors approved the 2014/2015 budget for the school and are pleased to report that the school is in a healthy position.

The school has a yearly Health and Safety inspection and The Caretaker undertakes daily, weekly and monthly risk assessments with concerns reported to the Head Teacher.

Governors are updated on a termly basis in relation to Health and Safety/Security of the building.

The committee have oversight of major building/premises matters and have been particularly involved this year in supporting the Head Teacher in discussing with County Hall the condition of the windows and external woodwork. The Chair and Vice Chair have inspected and written to County Hall.

Minor work has taken place to convert the current Parents' Room into a room suitable for two year old children.

The Curriculum Committee have assessed pupil progress against agreed targets by analysing and interrogating data presented by the Head Teacher. Governors have been kept apprised of the reports of the School's external Improvement Advisor and have analysed the available data on performance and progress.

We have remained focussed on whether children are making sufficient progress year on year. We have also evaluated the progress of those children receiving pupil premium funding from the government.

Governors are delighted to report that outcomes on progress of children leaving in July 2014 are excellent, in particular in Literacy, Physical Development and Maths. The curriculum has adopted elements of the Forest School Curriculum. All children have taken part in a variety of outdoor activities.

Lunch club remains popular and there are plans to introduce a breakfast club.

One of the roles for the Governors is reviewing and agreeing school policies. There is now a routine system of updating policies in place under the leadership of one Governor, together with a developing interest in policy development and review and the committee have contributed to these changes in these policies.

Governors have carried out a number of visits to monitor and evaluate the work of the school. Individual Governors have visited to look at Expressive Arts and Design, Maths, Literacy, Physical Development, Personal Social and Emotional development, Communications and Language and Learning Journals. Governors also attend other school events, such as The Macmillan Coffee Morning and Christmas Nativity Play.

Governors have attended numerous training courses, led by staff from Durham County Council.

	<p>Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents – you can either find them on the Governors’ page of our website or you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.</p>
<p>Future plans for the Governing Body</p>	<p>To recruit more parent Governors.</p> <p>To develop the Governing Body’s own self-evaluation skills to enable them to have an accurate view of the impact of its work.</p> <p>To ensure a rigorous interview process for the appointment of a new Head Teacher to replace Nick Birbeck (from January 2016)</p> <p>The Board of Governors look forward to the challenges which the Autumn Term will bring.</p>
<p>Contact Details</p>	<p>The Governing Body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors, Cllr John Lethbridge, c/o the school office.</p> <p>Details of the full Governing Body are on the school website.</p>