**Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of**

**Governing Body** **Structure**

Louise Rosen (Headteacher)

Carly Brien

 (Chair of Governors)

Tom Izzard

 (Vice-Chair)

Amy Baldwin

 (Parent Governor)

Roy Brame

 (Local Authority Governor)

Jenny Hollis

 (Co-opted Governor)

Harry Woolacott

 (Staff Governor)

Joanna Zamira – Nizniowska

 (Parent Governor)

**Drake Primary School & Little Pirates**

August 2019

Our role as governors is to monitor school and pupil progress & attainment, ensuring resources are used appropriately to give every child the best possible education. We work alongside the Headteacher and staff to make strategic decisions and set visions for our school.

The governing body of Drake Primary School & Little Pirates is made up of 1 staff governor (in addition to Headteacher, Louise Rosen), 3 parent governors, 2 Co-opted governors and 1 Local Authority governor. The governing body is divided into 2 committees: **Curriculum Committee** which focuses on both academic & pupil progress and **Resources Committee** which concentrates on buildings & finance, ensuring funds are used appropriately. Each committee meets at least once half-termly, and then feeds into a full governors meeting every term, where we meet as a collective to discuss any key points arising from the committee meetings and all statutory matters on the agenda.

Governors have had some difficulties with attendance at meetings this year, however at Full Governors Meetings we have always been quorate and therefore decisions or important documents are always signed and meetings have never been cancelled. We have welcomed a new Parent Governor to the board mid-school year, whom has been allocated a role within the Resource Committee; therefore we anticipate attendance at meetings to be improved.

**Overview of the year**

This year has been a big and exciting change for Drake Primary School & Little Pirates as we welcomed our new Headteacher, Louise Rosen. Mrs Rosen has brought fresh ideas and processes to Drake, which has benefitted both pupils and staff respectively and looking at provisions and resources for children as our school embarks, this coming term, on its first year as an all-through primary school at capacity. The school has introduced new priorities, mission & aims, which strives to ensure that every child is given the chance to learn and have equal opportunities to unlock their potential. Our aims have been thoroughly disseminated to staff and have been shared and embedded into school through assemblies and within the classroom.

The **Curriculum Committee** has heard from subject leads over the year, monitoring progress & attainment of pupils, with particular focus on Maths & English. Governors have access to the school’s new monitoring & tracking system, Pupil Asset, giving a greater insight into performance and challenge teachers to ensure that strategies are implemented where necessary. Additionally the introduction of Tapestry in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which has given parents greater access to their child’s progress and life at school , with the added interactivity to make comments on pictures and posts, or simply ‘Like’ what they are seeing!

The school’s library continues to grow and throughout the school staff have specifically emphasised the joy of reading, working collaboratively with parents to highlight the variety of books and their stories, and importance of reading within the curriculum, at school and beyond.

Forest School has become a popular addition to the school curriculum across the entire school and has embedded as an essential aspect of school life in order to build children’s resilience, confidence and enjoyment of the outdoors. It has been observed during governor monitoring that children are encouraged to play, learn and participate in many skills or creativity of their choosing, enhancing their enjoyment. The school has always recognised this and has looked into developing this aspect of school by purchasing an outdoor classroom/storage space where children cn continue to learn and enjoy forest school during even the poorest of weather conditions.

This year staff and governors have targeted Phonics as an area for improvement and has become a routine, daily part of the timetable for Early Years and KS1. The dedication and quality of teaching demonstrated by staff has been illustrated by the fantastic 86% Phonics Scores, up from last year’s score of 61%

Other areas of monitoring and strategy updates include:

* Updating of the school’s Behaviour Policy – observing new processes in action and general behaviour or children throughout the school day, including strategies adopted by staff to ensure that good behaviour is encouraged and maintained for the benefit of every child’s opportunity to learn.
* Updating of the school’s Attendance Policy, which includes the role in which Mrs Deidre Kane plays in ensuring all children attend school and on time, in addition to the support she can provide to parents to ensure that both parents and school are working together to meet the needs of families on an individual basis.

The **Resource Committee** continues to monitor the challenges of the budget, both for Drake Primary School and Little Pirates day-care provision. Much focus has been on the Norfolk County Council consultation regarding an onsite SRB provision for 8 pupils across KS1 & 2, additionally the consultation regarding the school nursery, which will be provided by Little Pirates from September 2019, subject to availability.

We are excited by the make-over of the school’s website and have worked hard as a collective voice of staff, governors, parents and wider community to ensure that our school website demonstrates a welcoming & informative platform, accessible to all stakeholders of our school. The information and amazing images of the children enjoying school will also be used to mirror literature given to all new prospective parents as demonstrated with our new Reception class intake.

**Future Plans for Drake Primary School & Little Pirates**

* To continue to monitor progress & attainment in KS1, ensuring that we build upon the successful Phonics scores in Year 1 into Year 2 in preparation for SATS.
* To monitor progress & attainment in KS2 as our Year 5 embark on their final year at our school. The Headteacher has established new links with Thetford Academy to promote smooth and fearless transition between schools for our future Year 6 children.
* Access to swimming lessons within school time across the entire school, where previously this was applicable to KS2 only.

The Governing Body continues to welcome open communication with staff, parents and the wider community via the school’s office. We hope you have all had a very happy summer break.