Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Pound Park Nursery School 2016-17

Dear Pound Park Community,

Welcome to the Annual Governance Report of the Governing Body of Pound Park Nursery School and Cardwell "Together for Twos" for 2016-2017.

The year 2016-2017 academic year saw new challenges for the nursery, including embedding a new structure and changes to the staff team following a significant restructure in summer 2016. The restructure resulted in a more sustainable and stable future for Pound Park in the near term, but concerns over funding in the longer term remain. Developing a plan for a sustainable future remains a key challenge area for the governing body.

Summer 2017 saw the launch of the government's new 30 hours Early Years Entitlement. During 16-17 planning and preparations for the new entitlement were a key area of focus. As a result 2017-2018 42 eligible families will be able to access their free child-care entitlement of 30 hours at Pound Park.

Outcomes for our children remain strong and reflect the outstanding quality of teaching and learning at Pound Park, with 98% of summer 2017 leavers making expected progress and 92% making rapid progress.

I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers for their on-going dedication and commitment which allow Pound Park Nursery and Cardwell "Together for Twos" to deliver outstanding support to the diverse community it serves and ensure our children have the best start in life.

Nick Edwards, Chair of Governors

The Governing Body of Pound Park Nursery School has a strong focus on three core strategic functions defined by the DfE:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;

2. Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and

3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance Arrangements	• The full governing body meets once each term. • There are two committees that also meet termly – Learning and Achievement and Resources Committees. • The governing body works to a Strategic Plan to ensure that agendas and committees cover their strategic and statutory duties. • The governing body Pay Committee meets at least annually to ensure that teacher's pay progression is linked to performance, and a Headteachers Performance Review Committee which sets challenging and meaningful targets.

	• Full governing body meetings and committee meetings are professionally clerked. • Each committee has terms of reference. Governors are also linked to monitoring roles, including SEND and Safeguarding. Governors visit the school regularly and provide written reports which are shared with the governing body. A list of governing body members is available on the school website together with their individual responsibilities. Governors have a wide spread of knowledge and expertise and participate in the committees which utilises their skills. Attendance at meetings is very good and details are available on the school website (governor pages).
Key issues addressed by the governing body 2016-17	The governing body has fulfilled its statutory duties in terms of monitoring all areas of the school's work and offering support and challenge through the agreed agendas of each committee and the agendas of full governing body meetings. Some of the areas covered this year: • Monitoring the use of Early Years Pupil Premium funding (statement available on the school website) • Strategic planning to respond to national initiatives like the new Early Years Entitlement. • Review of statutory policies and ensuring compliance of the school website • Overseeing the staffing plan to ensure that resources are deployed effectively • Ensuring the learning environment supports a curriculum that meets the needs of our children. • Rigorous budget monitoring
Assessment of Impact	Governors provide a high level of challenge of the headteacher and the school. They consider a range of documents and data provided by the school in order to judge the impact of strategies within the school. Governors also visit the school to meet with staff and parents to gain further information. The School Improvement Partner provides notes of visits which are considered at governing body meetings. Governors monitor finance stringently to ensure the school's budget is spent to achieve the best possible outcomes for our children.
Future plans for the governing body	The governing body will continue its work to respond to changes in the government agenda, planning for funding challenges and responding to changes to the EYFS framework and Safeguarding duties.
Contact Details	The governing body welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school office.