Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Board of
Pound Park Nursery School
2019/20

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 2019.20.

We were delighted to start the school year with the publication of the Ofsted Inspection report which saw the school maintain it's Outstanding quality of education.

The first half of the school year saw us continuing to plan strategically in the face of significant funding pressures and work hard to continue to provide the high-quality learning while continuing to work with the Local Authority and other Maintained Nursery Schools for a sustainable future.

The board's decision to form a partnership with Robert Owen Nursery School with a shared Executive Headteacher continued to draw on the benefit of shared resources and practices.

Since March 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic has and continues to have a profound impact on local and global communities. The board responded with strategic planning support and challenge, including robust and constantly adapted assessment of risk.

We, the governors of Pound Park 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 and especially during this extremely difficult time.

Nick Edwards and Lucy Davis, Chair/Vice-Chair of Governors

The Governing Board of Pound Park Nursery School has a strong focus on the three core strategic functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governance Arrangements	The full governing board meets once each term. There are two committees that meet on a termly basis – Learning and Achievement and Resources Committees. The governing board also has a Pay and Pay Appeals Committee which meet annually. Full governing board meetings and all committee meetings are

	professionally clerked and agendas and approved minutes are kept in the school office. Each committee has terms of reference. Governors are also linked to areas or aspects of the school. Governors who visit the school provide a written report which is shared with the governing board. The Learning & Achievement Committee undertakes a termly learning visit to monitor curriculum activities. Governors visit the school regularly and monitoring visits are linked to key areas (SEND, Safeguarding) or linked to the School Development Plan A list of governing board members is available on the school website together with their individual responsibilities. Governors have a wide spread of knowledge and expertise and are part of the committees which utilise their skills. Attendance at meetings is very good and an attendance grid is available on the school website (governor pages). Since late March 2020 the governors have largely held meeting virtually and therefore there has been less physical presence. The EHT and HT has kept in close contact with the C/VC and other members of the GB.
Key issues addressed by the governing board 2019-20	The governing board 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 board meetings. Some of the areas covered this year: • Strategic Planning and support to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic including oversight of operational plans and Risk Assessments in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. • Adapting governance plans and processes in order to respond to the pandemic whilst continuing to ensure that statutory requirements were met. • Rigorous School Improvement Plan – input from a variety of stakeholders and a monitoring cycle to ensure there is impact against priority areas • Monitoring the use of Early Years Pupil Premium funding (statement available on the school website) • Strategic Planning to respond to national initiatives such as the Early Years Entitlement. • Review of statutory policies and ensuring there is compliance of the school website • Monitoring of pupil progress across the school and ensuring there is a broad offer of curriculum to all students • Rigorous budget management and assurances of 'best value'.
Assessment of Impact	Governors provide a high level of challenge to leaders 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 to gain a greater understanding of the school and the on-going requirement to raise standards. The school's Improvement Partner provides notes of visit which are considered at governing board meetings.

	Governors monitor finance stringently to ensure the school's budget is spent to achieve the best possible outcomes for students.
Future plans for the governing board	The governing board recognises that 2020.21 will be a year of challenges never seen before. The board will continue to plan strategically and support the school through the pandemic as well as develop plans to respond to reductions in funding, pressures on the school budget and an uncertain future for Maintained Nurseries.
Contact Details	The governing board welcomes suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents/carers. Please contact the Chair of Governors c/o the school.